

Pratul Mukhopadhyay was paid last respects with full state honours

Veteran Bengali singer and composer Pratul Mukhopadhyay, best known for his iconic song "Ami Banglay Gaan Gai," passed away on Saturday morning at SSKM Hospital. He was 82. Mukhopadhyay, a revered figure in Bengal's cultural and socio-political landscape, had been suffering from rectal cancer and later developed severe infections that led to his demise. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who had personally visited Mukhopadhyay at the hospital just days before his passing, expressed her deep sorrow. **PG 3**



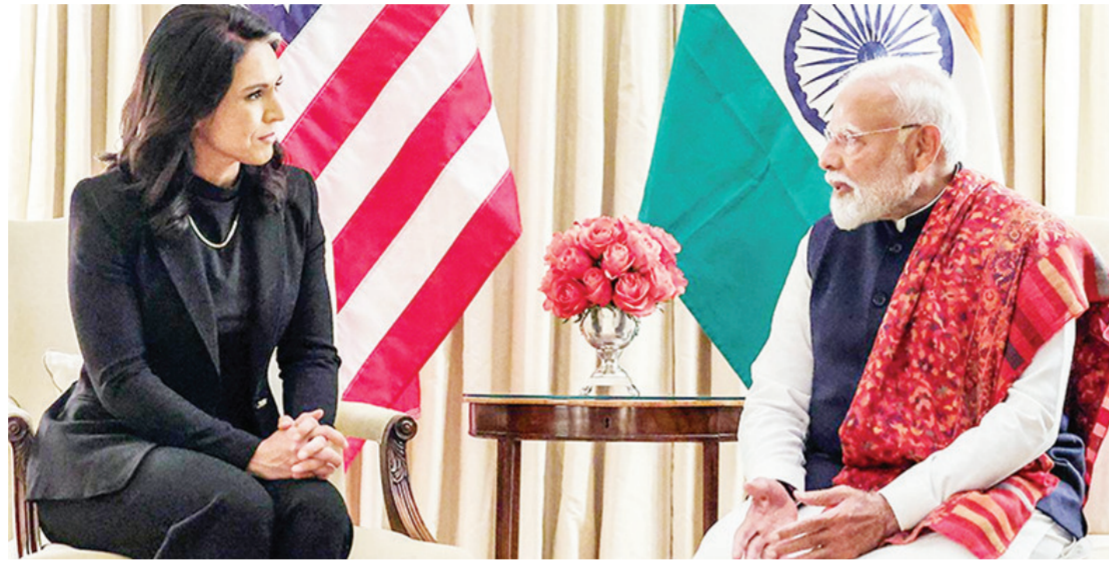
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US Director of National Intelligence Gabbard says it is an Honour to welcome PM Modi

MI News Service, Washington (DC) : The new US Director of National Intelligence (DNI) Tulsi Gabbard has described that it was an "honour" to welcome Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the US once again, and said she was looking forward to further strengthening the friendship between the two great nations.

Hindu-American Gabbard met Modi on his arrival in the US capital on a two day visit for a bilateral meeting with President Donald Trump. "It was an honour to welcome India's Prime Minister @narendramodi back to the United States, and look forward to continuing to strengthen the US-India friendship," Gabbard posted on X. Modi, after he met with Gabbard, also praised her as a "strong votary" of India-US ties. "Met USA's Director of National Intelligence, @TulsiGabbard, in Washington DC. Congratulated her on her confirmation. Discussed various aspects of the India-USA friend-



ship, of which she's always been a strong votary," Modi posted on Wednesday. The Hindu-American Gabbard met PM Modi shortly after he arrived in the US on Wednesday for a bilateral

meeting with President Donald Trump. During his visit, the prime minister focused discussions on enhancing intelligence cooperation, particularly in counter-terrorism, cybersecurity,

and emerging threats. Attorney General Pam Bondi administered the oath of office to 42 year old Gabbard, who Trump called "an American of extraordinary courage and patriotism." He

noted that she was deployed three times in the Army National Guard and that she is a former Democratic congresswoman, riffing "Can you believe that?" Gabbard, a former young Democratic congresswoman from Hawaii, had faced bipartisan scepticism about her suitability for overseeing the spy agencies. Gabbard thanked the president for his trust in her and vowed to "refocus our intelligence community" after she was sworn in. "Unfortunately, the American people have very little trust in the intelligence community, largely because they've seen the weaponization and politicisation of an entity that is supposed to be purely focused on ensuring our national security," the new intelligence chief said. The Senate confirmed her in a 52-48 vote, following two months of deliberations in the over whether Gabbard is qualified enough to lead the intelligence agencies and prepare Trump's daily intelligence brief.

US aircraft carrying 119 more deportees landed in Amritsar



MI News Service, Chandigarh: A huge US military aircraft carrying 119 more illegal Indian immigrants from the US landed at the Amritsar airport on Saturday night. This second batch of Indian nationals have been deported by the Donald Trump administration as part of its promised crackdown on illegal migration. They were forced to have come back to the country for not having any legal documents for staying in the US. The direct flight from Houston, Texas landed at the airport here at around 10-20 pm on Saturday, official sources said adding among the 119 deportees, 100 are from Punjab and Haryana alone.

with the US government. On the first flight, most of the deportees had taken the illegal "dunkley" route to enter the US. Many had undertaken journeys lasting months after paying huge sums to unscrupulous agents. Ever since their return, the Punjab and Haryana governments have arrested many such agents. During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's two day visit to the US, the issue of illegal immigration was discussed with President Donald Trump on Friday. Meanwhile, according to Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri "They committed to streamlining avenues for legal mobility of students and professionals and facilitating short-term tourist and business travel, while also committing to aggressively addressing and tackling illegal immigration and human trafficking. There is a commitment from both sides to take decisive action against elements that threaten public and diplomatic safety and security, as well as the sovereignty and territorial integrity of both nations. There is a commitment to strengthen law enforcement in this regard, especially significant from our perspective given some events that have taken place."

Another flight carrying another batch of deportees is also expected on February 16. Earlier on February 5, a C-17 military aircraft of the US Airforce with 104 Indians landed in Amritsar, largely with passengers from Punjab, Gujarat and Haryana. Sources said the second group of deportees, unlike those on the first flight, were not be in chains. The Centre had faced criticism over the treatment of passengers on the first flight as all passengers in that flight were chained and not even allowed to use the wash rooms freely. The alleged "dehumanisation" of the deportees had led to pandemonium in Parliament, and the External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had promised to take up the issue

However, senior Congress leader P Chidambaram on Saturday said that the arrival of a second US aircraft carrying Indian citizens allegedly involved in illegal migration would be a "test" for Indian diplomacy. In a post on X, Chidambaram said, "All eyes will be on the US aircraft which will land today in Amritsar bringing back

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10 Maha Kumbh devotees killed in car-bus crash on Prayagraj highway

MI News Service, Prayagraj : At least 10 devotees from Chhattisgarh traveling to the Maha Kumbh Mela in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj, died after their Bolero car collided with a bus on the Mirzapur-Prayagraj highway early on Saturday. The crash, which took place well after midnight, also left 19 others injured, several of them seriously, official sources said.

The devotees, all from Korba, Chhattisgarh, were traveling to the Sangam for a holy dip. The bus involved in the collision also carried pilgrims from Rajgarh, Madhya Pradesh. "Ten people died after a car carrying devotees from Chhattisgarh to the Maha Kumbh collided with a bus. The accident occurred on the Prayagraj-Mirzapur highway around midnight. The bodies have been taken to Swaroop Rani Medical Hospital for post-mortem. Further investigation is on," Prayagraj Additional SP Vivek Chandra Yadav said. President Droupadi Murmu has consoled the deaths of ten Mahakumbh devotees in a road accident on the Mirzapur . Taking to social media X, the President wrote, "The news of the death of so many people in a road accident on Mirzapur Highway in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh is unfortunate. I express my condolences to the families of the deceased. I wish for the speedy recovery of all those injured." Chief minister Jogi Adityanath also expressed his condolences at the road accident and wished speedy recovery to the injured. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath directed officials to reach the accident site and ensure that relief and rescue efforts were carried out. He also instructed authorities to provide best medical treatment to the injured. The state administration is monitoring road safety measures, especially during the Maha Kumbh Mela, which has seen millions of devotees arriving in Prayagraj. This crash is one of several accidents involving devotees traveling to and from the Maha Kumbh. The large number of pilgrims, along with heavy traffic on highways leading to Prayagraj, has led to multiple road mishaps. On Tuesday, seven devotees from Andhra Pradesh died when their tempo traveller collided with a truck on a high

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Mamata hails SSKM Hospital's record-breaking surgical feat

MI News Service, Kolkata : The city's premium government run SSKM Hospital has set a remarkable record by successfully performing nearly 200 surgeries in just five days. A dedicated team of 15 doctors worked tirelessly to clear a growing backlog of surgical cases, achieving an unprecedented feat in Indian medical history. On Saturday, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee praised the achievement, emphasizing the efficiency and infrastructure of government hospitals in West Bengal. She took to Twitter to congratulate the medical team, stating: "Glad to inform that our very own apex-level Government facility in Kolkata, SSKM Hospital, has created a record by performing 175 waiting-in-the-queue gallbladder surgeries in just five days! This was a mission-mode endeavour to clear the backlog of gallbladder cases and to demonstrate what our doctors can achieve when they work in unison with dedication!"



All these surgeries were successful, and these were in addition to the usual operations in the hospital. During these 5 days from Monday to Friday, there were 390 other major surgical cases in addition to those 175 special drive cases." The Chief Minister lauded the doctors, nurses, and hospital staff for their unwavering dedication and urged other hospitals

across the country to adopt similar mission-mode initiatives to clear pending cases. "I congratulate the SSKM authorities, doctors, nurses and staff, for this unprecedented feat. I also urge all hospitals to follow this model of mission-mode interventions to clear waiting-in-the-queue cases," she added. SSKM Hospital authorities stated that the number of patients

awaiting surgery had significantly increased due to various reasons. Given the hospital's daily capacity, accommodating all pending cases was a challenge. To address this, doctors had decided to conduct multiple surgeries simultaneously, significantly reducing the patient backlog. Over the past five days, the hospital became a hub of relentless surgical activity, akin to a "surgical Kumbh Mela."

Led by Dr. Manimoy Bandyopadhyay, Director of SSKM Hospital, Dr. Abhimanyu Basu, Head of the General Surgery Department, and Professor Dr. Dipten Sarkar, the team meticulously planned the operations. A structured roster ensured equal contribution from all doctors, allowing the surgeries to proceed smoothly and efficiently. Despite public holidays on Thursday and Friday, SSKM's surgical team remained at work, prioritizing patient care

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Jaishankar meets Ukrainian Foreign minister on sidelines of Munich Security Conference



MI News Service, Munich (Germany): External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met his Ukrainian counterpart Andrii Sybiha on the sidelines of the ongoing Munich Security Conference on Saturday and discussed the early resolution of the Ukraine conflict following the possibility of a peace talks with direct involvement of the USA, as suggested by President Donald Trump. "Good to meet FM Andrii Sybiha of Ukraine on the sidelines of #MSC2025 today. Discussed ongoing efforts towards the early resolution of the Ukraine conflict through a peace talks. Also spoke about further advancement of our bilateral cooperation," Jaishankar said on X. The minister, who is here to attend the Munich Security Conference 2025, met sev-

eral world leaders and joined Norway PM Jonas Gahr Store, Michigan Senator Elissa Slotkin, and Warsaw Mayor Rafal Trzaskowski in a panel discussion on 'Live to Vote Another Day: Fortifying Democratic Resilience' at the event. After the bilateral meeting Ukrainian Minister Andrii Sybiha expressed his gratitude to EAM Jaishankar for their "meaningful meeting," and emphasised a shared interest in advancing cooperation with India across various sectors, including trade, technology, agriculture, and security. During their interaction Jaishankar and Sybiha also discussed ongoing efforts at different level including one by the US President Donald Trump towards an early and

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India needs clear vision for new tech, not empty words, remarks Rahul Gandhi

MI News Service, New Delhi : Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has emphasised the need for developing a strong production base in the country, and "not empty words", as India has got enough talent to become an industrial prowess in new technology, ensuring more jobs for the youth.

In a post on X on Saturday, the leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha highlighted how China has started producing drones which are revolutionising warfare across the world, saying India needs to develop a strategy to become competitive in this area. "Drones have revolutionised warfare, combining batteries, motors and optics to manoeuvre and communicate on the battlefield in unprecedented ways. But drones are not just one technology -- they are bottom-up innovations produced by a strong industrial system", he said.

Criticising Prime minister Narendra Modi for allegedly not being able to realise the urgency of the matter Rahul Gandhi said "Unfortunately, PM Modi has failed to grasp this. While he delivers 'teleprompter' speeches on AI, our competitors are mastering new technologies. India needs a strong production base not empty words," he said in the post,



once again taking a swipe at the Prime Minister "India has immense talent, scale and drive. We must have a clear vision and build real industrial prowess to give our youth jobs and lead India into the future," Gandhi added. The Congress leader also tagged a nine-minute video on drone technology with the post, saying India has the talent and engineering skills to develop such technology for the future. Meanwhile, according to official sources, in the midst of the present era of drones, the cutting-edge breakthroughs in drone technologies are simply the most important tech development, cutting across Military-Civil Technology Fusion (MCTF). Now, the leading militaries are rushing to redefine the capability architecture and reshape the military doctrines. It is estimated that in India, the

drones UAVs, Unmanned Aerial Systems and Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) industry will be a ₹5,000-crore sector by 2026. Presently, there are 270 drone start-ups in India and the country will become a global drone hub by 2030. The Indian drone industry led by startups and Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) is growing in sheer numbers. Interestingly, drone startups dominate the overall defence startups in India in terms of number of entities.

However, very few have the requisite technologies to match the rigour of qualitative requirements set out by the armed forces. So largely, at this stage, it is about the potential to outperform other sectors and transform into an innovation and Intellectual Property (IP)-led

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'Sheesh Mahal' to be probed over renovation of 'lavish' bungalow after AAP's defeat

MI News Service, New Delhi : The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has directed the Public Works Department of Delhi government to conduct a detailed probe into the alleged merger of properties to build the 6, Flagstaff Road bungalow and the expenditures incurred on its interiors. The bungalow labelled as "Sheesh Mahal" by the BJP for alleged corruption was occupied by Arvind Kejriwal as the chief minister of Delhi from 2015 till the first week of October last year. However, no immediate reaction was available from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) or its convener Kejriwal on the matter. In mounting trouble for former Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, the CVC has asked the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) to conduct an inquiry into allegations of irregularities in the construction and renovation of his ministerial residence during his tenure in office. The bungalow which the BJP refers as a "Sheesh

Mahal" and both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah have frequently raised the issue in their speeches in Civil Lines had been allotted to Kejriwal in 2015 and is owned by the Delhi government's Public Works Department.

On October 14, 2024, incoming BJP MLA from Rohini Vijender Gupta, who was the Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Legislative Assembly then, had filed a complaint with the CVC alleging illegal construction at the property. Gupta had alleged that Kejriwal had flouted building regulations to construct a "lavish mansion" covering eight acres and that other government properties on the adjacent Rajpur Road, which previously housed senior officers and judges in Type-V flats as well as two bungalows were demolished and merged into the new residence, violating ground coverage and floor area ratio (FAR)

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17 injured as mini truck overturns in Malda after holy dip in Jharkhand

MI News Service, Malda: At least 17 persons returning after the holy dip in the Ganga in Jharkhand were injured when their mini truck overturned in Malda district on Friday. The accident occurred at Damodarpur on the Malda-Manikchak state highway under the jurisdiction of Englishbazar police station around 10.30am. Sources said around 20 people from Habibpur block of the Malda district had gone to Rajmahal in Jharkhand to take the holy dip in the Ganga.

After the accident, local people rushed for help. The injured were sent to the Malda Medical College and Hospital. Of the injured, two are in critical condition, said sources. Later in the day, Joel Murmu, the BJP MLA of Habibpur, and Krishnendu Narayan Choudhury, the chairman of the Englishbazar municipality who also heads the Rogi Kalyan Samiti at the medical college, met the injured. Police have seized the vehicle and initiated an inquiry. In another incident, a brick-laden truck heading towards Chanchal from Harishchandrapur overturned in the Bottala area of Malda on Friday. Police have detained the truck and the driver.

Car knocks down gaur on NH17, driver hurt

MI News Service, Siliguri: A gaur (Indian bison) died on NH17 near Panjhora, Nagrakata block, in Jalpaiguri on Friday morning after it was hit by a private car. The car also suffered damages and the driver sustained critical injuries. Sources said Ishan Urmia, from the Rheabari tea estate of Banarhat block, was driving his Maruti van from Samtse, Bhutan, to Bagdogra. While he was crossing the stretch near Panjhora – the Gorumara National Park and the Chapramari Wildlife Sanctuary on either side – a gaur walked onto the road. Urmia pulled the brakes but could not prevent the vehicle from hitting the gaur. The animal collapsed on the spot and died soon. The front portion of the car was mangled in the impact of the crash and the driver was rushed to the block health centre in Sulkapara. Later, he was shifted to the super-specialty hospital in Malbazar. "He has suffered a severe injury in his ribs. We have shifted him to Malbazar," said L K Bhaskar, a doctor posted at Sulkapara. Foresters of the Chalsa and Khunia forest range recovered the carcass and initiated a probe. "We have put signboards. There are speed breakers as it is a wildlife crossing zone. Even then, some drivers drive at high speeds while moving through the area. We have filed a specific case against the concerned driver. Drivers must act responsibly while moving through such areas," said Sajal Kumar Dey, the range officer of Khunia forest range. Anirban Majumdar, who has been working on the conservation of nature and wildlife in the Doora, said the maximum speed limit for vehicles on that stretch is 30 kmph.

Siliguri road to be renamed after Rajbanshi icon Panchanan Barma

MI News Service, Siliguri: The Siliguri Municipal Corporation has decided to rename the Naukaghat More, a prominent crossing in the city, in memory of Thakur Panchanan Barma, the most revered statesman of the Rajbanshi community. Mayor Gautam Deb said on Friday that a proposal would be sent to the state government to rename the crossing. "We have decided to rename Naukaghat More in the name of Thakur Panchanan Barma as a mark of respect to him," said Deb, while attending the 160th birth anniversary celebration of Barma.

Panchanan Barma was an educationist and a social reformer. There is a statue of him at Naukaghat

More. On Friday, the mayor unveiled another statue of Barma in Leusipokhri, on the outskirts of Siliguri. The statue has been installed by the Darjeeling district committee of the Rajbanshi Kshatriya Samiti. Sources said the proposal to rename the Naukaghat More would be initially sent to the street naming committee of the SMC which comprises social workers, thespians and representatives of cultural organisations. "Once the committee approves the recommendation, the proposal will be sent to the state government for final approval," said a source.

Such an initiative by the Trinamool-run civic board is being seen as yet another step by the party to

draw the support of Rajbanshi voters. In north Bengal, votes of the Rajbanshi community decide the election results of around half of the 54 Assembly constituencies.

"The entire Rajbanshi community has huge respect and sentiments for Panchanan Barma. Earlier, the state named a university in his name in Cooch Behar and also took the initiative to build a second campus of the varsity at his native village. Also, a state holiday has been declared on his birth anniversary," said a political observer. "Now the civic board here has come up with this proposal. It is evident that TMC is consistently putting impetus to draw the support of Rajbanshis," he added.

Hasibul's Fight: Overcoming paralysis with hope and surgery

MI News Service, Kolkata: A spinal cord tumor had robbed Sheikh Hasibul of the ability to walk, leaving his left leg paralysed and his future uncertain. When I first met him at a #Sebaashray camp, his determination to fight against the odds was evident, and I knew we had to act. On February 10, he underwent a critical spinal surgery at Apollo Hospital, a procedure that would give him a second chance at life. Today, as I stood before him, watching his unfiltered joy and optimism, I felt an indescribable sense of fulfillment. I am confident that before long, Hasibul will embrace life with renewed strength. A special note of gratitude to the exceptional medical team whose skill and dedication turned this hope into reality. His journey is



more than just a personal victory, it embodies the spirit of Sebaashray, where no battle is fought alone, and no dream is beyond reach.



After being referred from the Model Sebaashray Camp at Falta, 24 senior citizens have successfully undergone cataract surgeries at Vivekananda Mission Asram Netra Niramay Niketan, reclaiming their clarity of vision.

PM Modi will be able to find solution to Bangladesh issue: Dilip Ghosh

MI News Service, Kharagpur: Following the remarks by US President Donald Trump that the new administration may not get involved in the Bangladesh crisis, BJP leader Dilip Ghosh expressed confidence that Prime Minister Narendra Modi would be able to find a solution to the crisis in Bangladesh. Ghosh said, "We say that 'Modi hai to mumkin hai'. Even Trump believes in PM Narendra Modi. The way PM Modi is handling relations with India's neighbours and working for peace, people of the country are confident that PM Narendra Modi will be able to find a solution to Bangladesh issue. He further said that miscreants in Bangladesh are trying to disrupt peace along the border. "I spoke to DIG BSF. He said that they are trying to solve the situation through dialogue and this would be resolved in few days," he added. Earlier Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on Thursday said that PM Modi had shared concerns over the recent developments in Bangladesh with Donald Trump during his meeting with the US President. Addressing a press briefing after a meeting between Prime Minister Modi and US President in the White House, the Foreign Secretary stated that the subject was discussed between the two leaders and expressed hope that the situation in India's neighbouring country would progress for the pursuit of

"stable and constructive" relations between the two nations. "This was a subject that was discussed between the two leaders. And the Prime Minister shared his views and, indeed, his concerns with regard to recent developments in Bangladesh and how India sees the situation...We hope that the situation in Bangladesh will also move forward in a direction where we can pursue relations in a constructive and stable way with them. But there are concerns about that situation. And the Prime Minister shared those views with President Trump," the Foreign Secretary said in response to a reporter's question. Earlier, while giving their remarks in the White House after meeting with PM Modi, President Trump stated that the situation in Bangladesh was not related to the US "deep state," noting that he would leave the matter to the Prime Minister. "There was no role for our deep state...This is something that the Prime Minister has been working on for a long time...Frankly, I've been reading about it, I will leave Bangladesh to the Prime Minister," Trump said. In August 2024, a student-led movement ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina after weeks of protest and violence that resulted in over 600 deaths. Hasina, 76, fled to India, and an interim government led by Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus was subsequently formed.

Doctor show-caused for forcing patient's father to clean vomit at hosp

MI News Service, Nadia: The West Bengal Health Department has taken strict action against a doctor accused of forcing a patient's father to clean vomit at Shantipur State General Hospital. Dr. Tanmoy Sarkar, the accused doctor, has been served a show-cause notice and must respond within 72 hours to a three-member inquiry committee investigating the incident. The controversy erupted last Friday when Samir Shil, a resident of Haripur Meler Math in Shantipur, brought his five-year-old daughter to the hospital's emergency ward. The child was suffering from fever and vomiting. While undergoing examination, she vomited near the emergency room entrance. It is alleged that Dr. Tanmoy Sarkar, who was on duty, forced the child's father to clean up the vomit. Despite initially protesting, Samir Shil was reportedly pressured by the doctor into doing so. A video of the incident has gone viral, in which the doctor can be heard saying, "Wouldn't you clean up if she vomited on a bus or train?" However, the authenticity of the video has not been independently verified. The incident has sparked widespread outrage. The Health Department had already sought reports from the hospital superintendent and the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH). Additionally, a three-member committee was formed to investigate the matter. Now, with the show-cause notice issued, the accused doctor must explain his actions, failing which further action may be taken.

Ash contaminates river threatening fish population

MI News Service, Kolkata: A Bangladeshi barge, 'Sea World', suffered significant damage after colliding with a riverbank in Muriganga, near Ghoramara Island in South 24 Parganas, on Thursday. The impact caused the barge to split in two, with a widening crack, releasing fly ash into the river water. This incident poses a substantial environmental risk, with concerns about widespread pollution and potential fish deaths. The district administration has alerted the Kolkata Port Authority, and the Indian agent of the barge has been instructed to take immediate action. However, there are conflicting accounts of the incident. The Bangladeshi sailors claim that the pilot boat failed to guide them, while the port authority denies these allegations, stating that the barge was being piloted along the correct path. Locals have raised concerns about decreased navigability due to lack of dredging, which may have contributed to the accident. They are demanding measures to prevent further pollution. Authorities are closely monitoring the situation to ensure the broken



barge does not obstruct other vessels. This incident highlights the ongoing concerns about the environmental impact of barge traffic in the Sunderbans, including erosion and pollution. The National Green Tribunal has previously addressed similar incidents, emphasizing the need for measures to prevent such occurrences.

Budget a dossier to hide Bengal's decline: CPM state secretary Md Salim

MI News Service, Kolkata: The CPM on Friday rolled out numbers to describe the state budget presented in the Assembly on Wednesday as a "travesty of lies" and a dossier to hide the political and economic degradation of Bengal by claiming that the economy was on a path of revival. "We have seen that the (economic) reality is nowhere near of what is being said and projected in the budget. But the chief minister (Mamata Banerjee) and finance minister (Chandrima Bhattacharya) are making claims in the budget that are not supported by available statistics," CPM state secretary Md Salim said while addressing reporters in Calcutta on Friday.

To depict the state of Bengal's poor economic affairs, Salim came up with figures to show the real gap between what the budget claims and the reality. "The previous budget had projected a growth rate of 7.6 per cent for 2023-24 but in reality, the figure is 6.1 per cent. The government in its budget this year has acknowledged that last year's projected figures were inflated. In this year's budget, the government's projected growth rate is 6.8 per cent. In next year's budget the real figures would surely be lower," the CPM state secretary said.

Drawing parallels with the Narendra Modi government, Salim said the Trinamool government almost mirrored the Centre when it came to "selling a false narrative about the growth rate". "In this year's budget, the Narendra Modi government has brought down the growth rate for the 2023-2024 from the projected 8.3 per cent to 6.4 per cent. Both the state and central governments, the BJP and the Trinamool are indulging in a jugglery with figures to weave a travesty of lies," the former CPM MP said. Reeling out statistics related to the debt-to-gross state domestic product ratio, Salim said while Bengal's loan burden was rising, the rate of economic growth was on the decline. Drawing up a comparative chart with statistics sourced from the Medium Term Fiscal Policy State and Fiscal Policy Strategy Statement for the year 2025-26, finance department, government of West Bengal.

Abandoned by grandson, 85-year-old woman finally reunited with family

MI News Service, Bongaon: An 85-year-old woman, who was abandoned by her grandson on the roadside two months ago, has finally reunited with her family. The heartbreaking incident took place at the Jora Rasta crossing on the Bongaon-Chakdah Road in Gopalnagar police station area. The elderly woman, identified as Nirmala Halder from Shimurali Palpara in Nadia district, was rescued and admitted to a hospital, where she spent two months before her family was traced through ham radio assistance. According to police sources, Nirmala Halder had been living with her younger son, Ananta Halder, after the death of her husband. She had raised Ananta's son, caring for him since childhood. However, two months ago, her grandson took her out on the pretext of a visit and left her stranded at the Jora Rasta crossing, instructing her to wait. Trusting him, she remained there for hours, but he never returned. Passersby noticed the helpless woman and attempted to assist her, but she was unable to provide her home address. Eventually, locals alerted the Gopalnagar police, who rescued her and admitted her to Bongaon Sub-Divisional Hospital for treatment. De-

spite her frail health, she gradually recovered over the two months she spent there. With no way to contact her family, hospital authorities sought help from ham radio operators to trace her relatives. After extensive efforts, members of the ham radio network successfully identified and contacted her family a few days ago. Upon receiving the news, Nirmala's son visited the hospital on Saturday, deeply remorseful for what had happened. He folded his hands in apology before his mother and took her back home. The incident has sparked outrage and concern in the local community. Residents expressed their shock over the grandson's act of abandoning his grandmother, questioning the values of today's generation. "It is heartbreaking to see a woman who raised her grandson with so much love being left to suffer like this," said a local resident. While Nirmala Halder has now been reunited with her family, the painful episode highlights the vulnerability of elderly individuals and the need for stronger societal awareness and family responsibility. Authorities have urged people to be vigilant and report such cases to ensure the safety and dignity of senior citizens.

College sports event turns tragic as student dies during race

MI News Service, Howrah: A college sports event in Howrah's Shyampur turned tragic when a 19-year-old student collapsed and died during a race. The incident occurred at Siddheshwari Mahavidyalaya on Saturday, leaving students, faculty, and alumni in shock. The deceased student has been identified as Rupam Shi, a resident of Batul village under Bagan police station. Police have launched an investigation to determine the cause of death. According to sources, Siddheshwari Mahavidyalaya was hosting its annual sports competition alongside an alumni reunion event. A large number of current and former students had gathered for the occasion. Rupam participated in the 200-meter race along with other students. However, after completing the race, he sat on the ground, visibly struggling to breathe. Within moments, he collapsed on the field, losing consciousness. Concerned students and faculty members immediately rushed to his aid, attempting to revive him by sprinkling

water on his face. When he did not respond, he was quickly transported to the nearby Jhumhumi Hospital. However, doctors declared him dead upon arrival. The shocking incident prompted local police from Shyampur police station to visit the college. Rupam's body has been sent to Uluberia Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay Medical College for post-mortem examination to determine the exact cause of death. Authorities are investigating whether the incident was a medical emergency or if any other factors contributed to his sudden collapse. News of his untimely demise reached his family, plunging his home into mourning. His relatives and neighbors struggled to come to terms with the tragedy. The entire college was left in shock, and all remaining events for the day were immediately canceled. What was meant to be a day of celebration and camaraderie turned into one of sorrow and disbelief. Students, professors, and alumni expressed their grief over the sudden loss of a young life.

Coach Crispin Chettri rues lack of exposure for north Bengal footballers

MI News Service, Siliguri: Crispin Chettri, the coach of the Indian women's football team feels that the lack of exposure is the biggest hurdle for budding footballers of north Bengal. Chettri, who has just taken charge of the national team, said he plans to create a pool of players and develop a 'steady supply' line of players to excel at the next level. "If you go to remote rural areas or tea gardens of north Bengal, you can see the craze for football. But these talents are not getting proper exposure, be-

cause unless you perform in any national level tournament, the scouts will not notice. Only one league in Calcutta is not enough to spot the talents," Chettri, told from Anantapur in Andhra Pradesh on Friday. The Kurseong resident, who has played for the United Kurseong Football Club, has made hill residents proud with his new assignment. Last year, he guided the Odisha FC women's team to qualify for the first edition of the Asian Football Confederation Women's Champions League.



The Odisha women's team also became the champion of the Indian Women's League for 2023-24 under Chettri's coaching. Currently, he is conducting a preparatory camp for the upcoming Pink Ladies Cup with 29 players at the Anantapur Sports Village. The tournament is an international women's friendly football tournament and the matches will be played in Dubai from February 20 to February 26. Along with India, teams from the Republic of Korea, Russia, Thailand, Uzbekistan, and Jordan

will participate in the tournament. On February 17, the final squad for the tournament will be announced and the next day, the team will leave for UAE, he said. "We are currently focusing on the ensuing tournament. But once I return, I will talk to officials of our football federation and request our spotters to visit the school and varsity level football events to spot new talents," said Chettri. The current FIFA ranking of the Indian women's football team is 69 in the world while in Asia, their rank is 12.



With a heavy heart, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee consoles the grieving wife of legendary singer Pratul Mukhopadhyay during his solemn last rites at Rabindra Sadan, in Kolkata on Saturday. pic :Prabir Bhattacharya



The last rites of veteran Bengali singer-songwriter Pratul Mukhopadhyay being performed with full state honours and gun salute at Rabindra Sadan in Kolkata.

Jaishankar meets Ukrainian Foreign minister on sidelines of Munich Security Conference

From PG 1
peaceful resolution of the three year long Russia-Ukraine conflict. Sharing a post on X, Sibiha said, "I thank @DrS-Jaishankar for our meaningful meeting. We are interested in developing relations with India and advancing cooperation in trade, technology, agriculture, security, and other areas. We also rely on India's strong global voice to bring a just and lasting peace closer." During their meeting, the two leaders also spoke about further advancement of bilateral cooperation. Russia and Ukraine have been engaged in conflict since February 2022. Since the war between Russia and Ukraine started, India taking a neutral stand, has called for a peaceful resolution of conflict through dialogue and diplomacy. India has also expressed its willingness to contribute in all possible ways to facilitate an early return of peace. Accordingly Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited both Moscow and Kiev last year and met President Putin and President Vladimir Zelensky separately in an effort to put and end to the war. On the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference, Jaishankar also met with Minister-President of Bavaria Markus Soder in Germany and discussed economic and technology cooperation. The two leaders also held talks about the international situation. Jaishankar said that he looked forward to welcoming Markus Soder to India. "Delighted to meet Minister-President @Markus_Soeder of Bavaria again in Munich today. Discussed our economic and technology cooperation. Exchanged views about the international situation."

10 Maha Kumbh devotees killed in car-bus crash on Prayagraj highway

From PG 1
way in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur district. On Monday, a couple from Agra died, and four others were injured when their car collided with a truck while returning from the Maha Kumbh. Station House Officer Rudra Pratap Singh confirmed that authorities seized the truck and detained the driver. That same day, a bus-car collision in Sonbhadra, Uttar Pradesh, led to the death of a man from Rourkela, Odisha, while six others sustained injuries. The accident raised further concerns about vehicular safety and traffic management during the Maha Kumbh Mela. The Maha Kumbh Mela, one of the largest religious gatherings, began on January 13 and will continue until February 26, coinciding with Maha Shivratri. According to the Uttar Pradesh government, on Friday itself over 9.2 million devotees took a holy dip at the Sangam, pushing the total footfall of over 500 million till now.

Pratul Mukhopadhyay laid to rest with full State Honours

CM Mamata bids emotional farewell

MI News Service, Kolkata: Veteran Bengali singer and composer Pratul Mukhopadhyay, best known for his iconic song "Ami BanglayGaanGai," passed away on Saturday morning at SSKM Hospital. He was 82. Mukhopadhyay, a revered figure in Bengal's cultural and socio-political landscape, had been suffering from rectal cancer and later developed severe infections that led to his demise. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who had personally visited Mukhopadhyay at the hospital just days before his passing, expressed her deep sorrow. "His songs were not just melodies but voices of protest, a reflection of our struggles and cultural identity. His passing is an irreparable loss to Bengal," she said in her statement. She extended her condolences to his family and countless admirers. His passing left his loved ones devastated, including West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who struggled to hold back her emotions. A final tribute was paid to singer-songwriter Pratul Mukhopadhyay at RabindraSadan. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Kolkata Police Commissioner Manoj Kumar Verma, Minister Aroop Biswas, and other dignitaries were present at the ceremony. As Chief Minister paid her final respects to the legendary singer at RabindraSadan, she openly expressed her grief. Speaking to the

media, she said, "Since morning, I have not been able to control myself. I couldn't speak for a long time. Then, I called Aroop (Minister Arup Biswas) and instructed him on what needed to be done. I usually don't see the faces of my loved ones after their demise. I prefer to remember them as they were in life. But Pratul-da was different. I had to come here; there was no other choice." Reflecting on her personal bond with Pratul Mukhopadhyay, Mamata Banerjee said, "He was more than family to me. He faced many hardships. I had offered to make arrangements for him multiple times, but he always said, 'I'll manage somehow.' When I visited him at the hospital, we spoke to each other. Our doctors tried their best, they gave their all... but in the end, nothing could be done. What more can I say?" In honour of his contributions, the state government arranged for his mortal remains to be kept at RabindraSadan, where thousands, including fans, cultural icons, and political leaders, paid their last respects. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee personally attended the ceremony acknowledging his unparalleled impact on Bengal's music and activism. His last rites were performed with full state honours, signifying his immense legacy, gave him a heroic farewell with a gun salute. Mukhopadhyay had been admitted to SSKM Hospital on January 16

after experiencing severe health complications. He underwent surgery on February 5, but his condition worsened due to post-operative infections that spread to his lungs. Despite medical intervention, he suffered a cardiac arrest last week, which ultimately proved fatal. The singer had been battling health issues for several months. In early January, he was hospitalized following sudden nasal bleeding. Neurologists and ENT specialists conducted multiple tests, and although he initially responded to treatment, his condition rapidly deteriorated. Further examinations revealed a critical lung infection. Even during his final days, Mukhopadhyay remained deeply connected to his music. Just days before his passing, he sang "Ami BanglayGaanGai" from his hospital bed, leaving doctors and nurses emotional. His music was more than art—it was a movement, inspiring generations with themes of social justice and working-class struggles. Mukhopadhyay was more than just a singer; he was a symbol of resistance, a voice for the people, and an artist who used his music to inspire change. His compositions, often rooted in the struggles of the working class and social justice, remain timeless. His passing marks the end of an era, leaving behind a legacy that will continue to inspire generations.

Muzaffarpur residents reconnect with roots through music and dance in Kolkata

MI News Service, Kolkata: Kolkata witnessed an emotional reunion as former residents of Muzaffarpur, Bihar, gathered to celebrate their childhood memories through dance and music. Many had moved to Kolkata long ago, embracing Bengali culture while cherishing their roots. The event, held at IndumatiSabhagriha in Jadavpur, allowed families to reconnect and reminisce about the past. Organized by Shyamashree Ray Chowdhury and hosted by Madhumita Mukherjee, the program featured performances by renowned artists. Grandmaster DibyenduBarua and filmmaker Saikat Das were honored. The gathering highlighted the power of nostalgia, uniting generations through shared history and cultural bonds. Musical performances by Shyamashree Ray Chowdhury, Ruma Chatterjee, and Hirak Chatterjee added vibrancy to the event, while a dance performance by Anjali Mukherjee captivated the audience. Many prominent people from Muzaffarpur were also present. The reunion fostered nostalgia, bridging generations and reviving lost connections. While social media has helped reconnect old friends, this event brought people together in person, strengthening bonds and celebrating shared history with music, conversation, and warm

US aircraft carrying 119 more deportees landed in Amritsar

From PG 1
illegal immigrants. Will the deportees be handcuffed and their legs tied with ropes? It is a test for Indian diplomacy." Notably, on February 5, a US Air Force plane carrying Indian citizens who "illegally immigrated" to the US arrived in Amritsar, Punjab. Speaking on the issue, Chidambaram further alleged that the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) "crumbled badly" in handling the deportation of Indian nationals from the United States. He said that the government had information about the planned deportation of Indian nationals and asked if External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had raised the issue of sending Indians, identified as illegal immigrants by the US, under SoPs when he met new US Secretary of State, Marco Rubio. The Congress leader further added that the government was aware of the number of Indians to be deported under SoP, with handcuffs and legs tied with ropes. He asked if the government had offered to send its own plane to bring back Indians and if the government would send planes to bring back 483 more Indians identified as illegal immigrants by the US. Meanwhile, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann came hard on the Centre over the deportation of Indian citizens who allegedly illegally migrated to the United States, and said that Amritsar for landing of these aircraft is being chosen deliberately to portray that only Punjabis are illegal migrants. "There is a conspiracy to defame Punjab and Punjabis. The first plane landed in Amritsar. Now, a second plane carrying Indian citizens illegally migrated to the US will land in Amritsar. The MEA should tell the criteria based on which Amritsar was selected to land the aircraft. You select Amritsar to defame Punjab. At the time when PM Modi and US President Trump were meeting, they must have been putting shackles on our people. Is this the gift Trump has given? America's military planes are landing in Amritsar, and an enemy country, Pakistan, is right next to it."

Mamata hails SSKM Hospital's record-breaking surgical feat

From PG 1
whom had never even heard of micro-surgery or private nursing homes. For many underprivileged patients from remote areas, this initiative was a lifeline. Several had never even heard of micro-surgery or private hospitals and would have otherwise faced years of waiting or costly alternatives. The overwhelming success of this initiative has been met with widespread appreciation. Patients and their families expressed gratitude, stating that this effort proved that government hospitals could provide world-class medical treatment. Professor Dr. Dipten Sarkar mentioned that while the primary focus of this initiative was gallbladder stone surgeries, they plan to extend it to other procedures too in future. This success reinforces Bengal's medical superiority over other states and highlights the efficiency of its government-run hospitals. SSKM authorities revealed that the backlog of surgical cases had been increasing due to various reasons. Given the limited capacity of daily surgeries, the doctors took a collective decision to conduct multiple surgeries simultaneously, reducing the patient load significantly. This initiative proved to be a boon for underprivileged patients from remote villages—many of

Enhanced public transportation: 12 addl buses to improve connectivity in Kolkata

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a significant boost to Kolkata's public transport system, a new bus route, KB-24, has been inaugurated, connecting Hatiasala Infosys in Bhangar to Kolkata Station. This initiative follows Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's directive to enhance bus services in the city after concerns were raised over insufficient public transport connectivity during a Nabanna meeting several months ago. The new route features a fleet of 26 modern buses, with 12 already operational, covering key locations such as Technical Building, Biswa Bangla Gate, Newtown Bus Stand, Sector 5, Karunamoyee, and Shyambazar. This service is expected to improve daily commuting, benefiting office-goers, students, and residents. The launch ceremony took place on Saturday afternoon, with Transport Minister Snehashis Chakraborty and Canning East MLA SaokatMolla officially flagging off the buses. Speaking at the event, Minister Chakraborty emphasized the government's commitment to improving public transport in Kolkata. "A new bus route has been inaugurated today. To further enhance connectivity, government buses will be introduced alongside private ones, ensuring faster and more efficient travel to Kolkata Station and RG Kar," he stated. The K-1 Bus Route Authority has al-

ready been operating private buses along this route. However, the introduction of government-run buses aims to enhance frequency, reduce travel time, and provide a more reliable mode of transportation for thousands of daily commuters. Residents and passengers welcomed the initiative, expressing relief over the increased availability of buses. A daily commuter from Newtown to Shyambazar, shared his experience, saying, "Earlier, waiting for buses at Karunamoyee was frustrating. Now, with more buses on this route, traveling has become much easier." The KB-24 route is expected to address congestion issues in major IT hubs such as Sector 5 and Newtown, where thousands of professionals travel daily. The additional buses will not only ease rush-hour traffic but also ensure affordable and efficient travel options for the city's workforce. Transport Minister Snehashis Chakraborty revealed that this is just the beginning of a larger initiative to improve Kolkata's public transport infrastructure. He indicated that more government buses would be introduced in phases to address traffic congestion and last-mile connectivity issues. Furthermore, special AC and electric buses are also being considered for the Newtown-Sector 5-Kolkata Station corridor in the coming months.

Calcutta Chamber of Commerce analyses Union Budget 2025-26

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Calcutta Chamber of Commerce organized a high-profile discussion on the Union Budget 2025-26, bringing together industry leaders and financial experts to assess its impact on economic growth. The event featured Hari Shankar Halwasiya, President of the Chamber, who welcomed esteemed guests, including Rishabh C. Kothari, CEO of CKC Fragrances and Flavours Pvt. Ltd., and CA Krishna Kumar Chhaparia, a distinguished Chartered Accountant. In his keynote address, Halwasiya highlighted the budget's emphasis on fostering a prosperous and inclusive India, focusing on youth, farmers, women, and underprivileged communities. He outlined key initiatives, including the government's fiscal prudence in targeting a 4.4% fiscal deficit, enhanced credit access for MSMEs, tax reforms for middle-class relief, and incentives under the "Make in India" initiative. The budget also prioritizes investments in education, skill development, and sustainability, with allocations for AI research, medical and IIT seat expansion, and green energy projects. Shri Halwasiya stressed the importance of urban infrastructure and social sector spending in driving long-term growth. The discussion, moderated by MadhavSureka, Chairman of the Chamber's Tax Committee, concluded with expert insights, reaffirming the Chamber's commitment to fostering economic dialogue.

Massive fire breaks out at garage near Bypass

MI News Service, Kolkata: A massive fire broke out at a garage near the Bypass on Saturday morning, engulfing the entire area in thick black smoke. Several vehicles were completely destroyed in the blaze, causing panic among local residents. Fire department officials rushed to the spot after receiving information, deploying two fire engines to control the situation. However, before their arrival, locals had already started efforts to douse the flames. Eyewitnesses reported that the fire started around 10:30 AM. As soon as the flames were noticed, residents immediately informed the fire brigade. However, delays in the arrival of fire-

'Sheesh Mahal' to be probed over renovation of 'lavish' bungalow after AAP's defeat

From PG 1
norms. It also lacked proper layout plan approvals, he further alleged. A year ago, in September 2023, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had registered a preliminary enquiry on the matter months after the Ministry of Home Affairs asked the Comptroller and Auditor General of India to conduct a special audit into the alleged irregularities and violations in the reconstruction of the bungalow. On October 16 last year, the CVC had registered a complaint for further examination in the matter, forwarding it to the CPWD for further investigation. In December, a factual report based on Gupta's complaint was submitted to the CVC by the chief vigilance officer, CPWD. Earlier this week, on Thursday, the CVC, Gupta said, apprised him that after examining the factual report, the CVO of CPWD has been "advised to conduct a detailed investigation into the matter", assuring him that "suitable action based on the findings of the investigation report" will be taken.

India needs clear vision for new tech, not empty words, remarks Rahul Gandhi

From PG 1
high-technology high-value industry. There is no doubt that the policy reforms by the government in the civil drone sector are timely, comprising the civil drone rules-2021; Digital Sky Platform, Kisan Drone Scheme, Namu Drone Didi and Production Linked Incentive (PLI). Along with its employment in the Svamitva scheme, agriculture, medical surveys, and other sectors had a significant impact on its expeditious adoption since 2021. However, the absence of a nodal ministry for drone technology, lack of a drone atmanirbharta policy, Research and Development (R&D) structures and import dependence on critical components, are barriers to India's global drone hub mission. The absence of initiatives for the development and validation of emerging drone technologies such as remote tracking, detect and avoid systems, Unmanned Traffic Management (UTM) and Urban Air Mobility (UAM) are immediate challenges in the integration of drones into the Indian airspace.

NAME CHANGE
I, Shreya Bhattacharjee D/o Shyamal Kumar Bhattacharjee, by faith - Hindu Nationality - Indian, Service, R/A 32/3, Phulbagan Road, P.S. - Patuli, P.O. - Baghajiati, Kolkata - 700086, South 24 Pgs. (WB), have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Shreya Bhattacharya as declared before the Ld. Judicial Magistrate 1st Class at Alipore Court (WB) vide Affidavit No. 12546 dated 14.02.2025. Shreya Bhattacharya and Shreya Bhattacharjee both are same and identical person and I indicate myself only. That my correct and actual name is Shreya Bhattacharya.

NAME CHANGE
I, Rozi Praveen D/o Maqsood Alam, residing at F/32, West Chowbaga, Gulshan Colony, P.O.-Dhapa, Kolkata - 700105, WB, declare that in my Aadhar Card, my name, Date of Birth and Father's name have been recorded as Rozi Khatoun, 01.01.2009 and Md. Maksud instead of my actual Name, Date of Birth and Father's Name as Rozi Praveen, 08.10.2006 and Maqsood Alam. That Rozi Khatoun & Rozi Praveen and Md Maksud & Maqsood Alam both are same and one identical persons vide affidavit no. 1666 dated 11.02.25 before Ld. 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Calcutta.

NAME CHANGE
I, Sunil Dom Slo. Madan Dom R/o. Vivekananda Road, C.R.P. Hospital Quarter, Building No. 4, Chinsurah, Hooghly-712103, W.B., aged about 43 years have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as to Sunil Mallick vide an affidavit no. 1217 sworn before Judicial Magistrate, Kolkata Court on 10/02/25. Sunil Dom & Sunil Mallick S/o. Madan Dom both are the same & one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Rupsi Bose (Old Name) wife of Late Dilip Bose, residing at 53, BY C Jessore Road, North, Champadali More Barasat, North 24 Pgs, Pin- 700124, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Ruby Bose (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 12/02/2025. Ruby Bose (New Name) and Rupsi Bose (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Sanjkar Kumar Das (Old Name) son of Monoranjan Das, residing at Hatthuba, Chandga Park, Habra, Manicktala, North 24 Pgs, Pin- 743263, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sankar Das (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 12/02/2025. Sankar Das (New Name) and Sanjkar Kumar Das (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Chandni Ganguly (Old Name) wife of Debadiya Ganguly, residing at 7A, Chandicharan Ghosh Road, P.O.- Barisha, Kolkata- 700008, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Chandni Chakraborty Ganguly (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 12/02/2025. Chandni Chakraborty Ganguly (New Name) and Chandni Ganguly (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Irshad Alam (Old Name) son of Mehaboob, residing at 45/B/H/2, Canal East Road, Narkeldanga, Kolkata- 700011, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Ershad Alam (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 12/02/2025. Ershad Alam (New Name) and Irshad Alam (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Rajkumar Tafader (Old Name) son of Late Jagadish Tapader, residing at Manoharpur, P.O.- Banerwarpur, P.S.- Bagdah, North 24 Pgs, Pin- 743270, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Rajkumar Tapader (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 12/02/2025. Rajkumar Tapader (New Name) and Rajkumar Tafader (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Pranata Tafader (Old Name) daughter of Bijooy Kabir, residing at Manoharpur, P.O.- Banerwarpur, P.S.- Bagdah, North 24 Pgs, Pin- 743270, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Pranati Tapader (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 12/02/2025. Pranati Tapader (New Name) and Pranata Tafader (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Rakjagini Tafader (Old Name) wife of Late Jagadish Tapader, residing at Manoharpur, P.O.- Banerwarpur, P.S.- Bagdah, North 24 Pgs, Pin- 743270, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Rakjini Tapader (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 12/02/2025. Rakjini Tapader (New Name) and Rakjagini Tafader (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Khadija Molla (Old Name) daughter of Yakub Molla, residing at Alampur Madrasa, Maheshkhala (M), P.O.- Garden Reach, P.S.- Rabindranagar, Kolkata- 700024, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Khadija Molla (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 12/02/2025. Khadija Molla (New Name) and Khadija Molla (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Alato Sekh (Old Name) son of Kajem Ali Sekh, residing at Vill & P.O.- Bhayna, P.S.- Hanskhali, Nadia, Pin- 741502, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Altop Sekh (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 12/02/2025. Altop Sekh (New Name) and Alato Sekh (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Sekh Sabul Mondal (Old Name) son of Sk Mahasin Mondal, residing at Paschimramnagar, P.O.- Binagram Paschimramnagar, Hooghly, Pin- 712401, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sk Sabul Mondal (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 13/02/2025. Sk Sabul Mondal

NAME CHANGE
I, Sekh Ashbul Mondal (Old Name) son of Sk Sabul Mondal, residing at Paschimramnagar, P.O.- Binagram Paschimramnagar, Hooghly, Pin- 712401, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sk Ashbul Mondal (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 13/02/2025. Sk Ashbul Mondal (New Name) and Sekh Ashbul Mondal (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, K Heamant Rao (Old Name) son of K Bhaskar Rao, residing at 18/C/13 Unit-11 North Colony Garden Reach Road, P.O.- Garden Reach, Kolkata- 700043, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as K Hemant Rao (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 12/02/2025. K Hemant Rao (New Name) and K Heamant Rao (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Sk Tamjiuddin (Old Name) son of Sk Tarifiuddin, residing at Doge Chhya, P.O. & P.S.- Keshpur, Dist.- Paschim Medinipur, Pin- 721150, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sk Tomjiuddin (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 12/02/2025. Sk Tomjiuddin (New Name) and Sk Tamjiuddin (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Robul Mondal (Old Name) son of Rejal Mondal, residing at Vill - Kalinga, P.O.- Andhar Manik, P.S.- Baduria, Dist.- North 24 Pgs, Pin- 743401, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Rabul Mondal (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 14/02/2025. Rabul Mondal (New Name) and Robul Mondal (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Dilip Kumar Poddar (Old Name) son of Bishwanath Poddar, residing at 26/H/6 Radha Madhav Dutta Garden Lane, Kolkata- 700010, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Dilip Poddar (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 13/02/2025. Dilip Poddar (New Name) and Dilip Kumar Poddar (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Hasmat Ara, daughter of Late Nazir Ahmed, residing at 3A/H/2, Rajab Ali Lane, Khiddipore, Kolkata- 700023, West Bengal, INDIA, shall henceforth be known as Hasmat Ara as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 12/02/2025. Hasmat Ara and Hasmat Ara both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Shaheen Jamil wife of Mohammed Sajid declare that my husband said name Md. Sajid (old name) father of Md. Arman Sajid residing at 23A, Modful Islam Lane, P.S. Beniapukur, Kolkata - 700014, west Bengal have changed my husband name and shall henceforth be known as Mohammed Sajid (new name) vide an affidavit shown before the Ld. Judicial Magistrate 1st Class at Alipore on 11/02/2025. Mohammed Sajid (new name) and Md. Sajid (old name) both are the same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Anuj Kumar Shaw, Son Of Arbind Shaw, Residing Mathurapur, Sonarpur, South 24 Parganas-700150, Shall Henceforth Be Known As Anuj Shaw Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public Kolkata On 12/02/2025. That Anuj Kumar Shaw And Anuj Shaw Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Tritjit Poyra (Old Name) S/O Ajoy Payra, Resident Of 4B, Jagannath Ghosh Road, Kasba, Ps - Kasba, Kolkata-700042, West Bengal. I Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Tritjit Payra (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Ld. 1st Class Judicial Magistrate At Kolkata On 31/01/2025. That Tritjit Poyra(Old Name) And Tritjit Payra (New Name) All Are The Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Ajoy Poyra (Old Name) S/O Late Srikanta Payra, Resident Of 4B, Jagannath Ghosh Road, Kasba, Ps - Kasba, Kolkata-700042, West Bengal. I Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Ajoy Payra (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 13/02/2025. That Ajoy Poyra(Old Name) And Ajoy Payra (New Name) All Are The Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Sanoara Begum @ Sanoyara Begum (Old Name) W/O Giasuddin Molla Resident Of Uttar Para Nibra, Shalag No.2, Po-Nibra, Ps-Domjur, Dist-Howrah, Pin-711409, West Bengal. I Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Sanoyara Begam Molla(New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 12/02/2025. That Sanoara Begum And Sanoyara Begum (Old Name) And Sanoyara Begam Molla (New Name) All Are The Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Giasuddin Molla @ Gias Uddin Molla (Old Name) S/O Mahinuddin @ Mohinuddin Molla, Resident Of Uttar Para Nibra, Shalag No.2, Po-Nibra, Ps-Domjur, Dist-Howrah, Pin-711409, West Bengal. I Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Animella Sathya Sai Shravan Keerthy(New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 13/02/2025. A S Sai Sravan Keerthi(Old Name) And Animella Sathya Sai Shravan Keerthy (New Name) All Are The Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Sekh Kabirul Islam (Old Name) S/O Sk Fazlul Quader, Resident Of Vill- Rampura, Po & Ps - Mohanpur, Dist-West Medinipur, Pin-721436, West Bengal. I Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Sk Kabirul Islam (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 13/02/2025. That Sekh Kabirul Islam(Old Name) And Sk Kabirul Islam (New Name) All Are The Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Sekh Fazlul Quader (Old Name) S/O Late Sk Abdul Halim, Resident Of Vill- Rampura, Po & Ps - Mohanpur, Dist-West Medinipur, Pin-721436, West Bengal. I Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Sk Fazlul Quader (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 13/02/2025. That Sekh Fazlul Quader(Old Name) And Sk Fazlul Quader (New Name) All Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Medical Exhibition 2025 Inaugurated in Kolkata by Malay Pit, President of Santiniketan Medical college

MI News Service, Kolkata: The much-awaited Medical Exhibition 2025, India's premier healthcare and hospital needs exhibition, was inaugurated today at Biswa Bangla Mela Prangan, Kolkata. The three-day event, running from February 15 to 17, has attracted leading national and international healthcare institutions, showcasing cutting-edge medical innovations.

The inauguration ceremony was graced by Dr. Malay Pit, President of Santiniketan Medical College & Hospital and Tripura Santiniketan Medical College. In his speech, Dr. Pit commended the state government's efforts in improving healthcare infrastructure, particularly in rural areas. "The government's initiatives in modernizing healthcare services are commendable. The transformation of rural hospitals is unprecedented and marks a significant step forward," he said.

Dr. Pit also lauded the state's pro-industry policies, emphasizing the need for private investment in healthcare. "The government is fostering an industry-friendly environment, actively engaging with business leaders to attract investment. Sustainable healthcare growth requires robust industrial participation, and these initiatives are a step in the right direction," he added.

Speaking at the event, Sanjay Mukherjee, MD of SI Surgical, highlighted the exhibition's impact on investment opportunities. "This platform will open new avenues for healthcare advancements, encouraging Indian and international investors to explore strategic collaborations," he said.

Taher Sheikh, Joint Secretary of the All Bengal Private Nursing Home and Hospital Owners Association, emphasized the large-scale participation from the healthcare community. "More than 2,500 private hospitals and nursing homes, along with numerous doctors from across the country, are attending this year's event," he confirmed. A Milestone in Healthcare Advancement

Genesis Hospital Kasba Kolkata celebrated its completion of 20 years



MI News Service, Kolkata: Genesis Hospital Kasba Kolkata celebrated its completion of 20 years and Teri Mitti which was followed by the National Anthem. The dignitaries were welcomed and felicitated with beautiful bouquets then the program progressed with the launching of our new food menus by our In-house dieticians such as Bun Dosa, Schewan Dosa, Sagu Fruit Bowl, Gajar ka Healthy Halwa which focused on healthy patient and patient party food. The employees of the hospital especially the ladies performed on a various patriotic and Bollywood numbers of a combination of old and new.

The lunch was prepared by Eastern Staple and Ecclesiastes Cafe in collaboration with Genesis Hospital Kasba Kolkata in the authentic Bengali food which was healthy and tasty. We also announced our expansion work of the Genesis Hospital Kasba Kolkata from a 100 to a 350 bedded hospital as soon as possible. The hospital's legacy to provide affordable healthcare year on year has etched a mark on the hearts and minds of all our well wishers. We are a Multispecialty Hospital with a great track record of successful Surgeries, Treatments and Procedures. Our mission, vision and aim is to serve people better and cure them to have a Healthy Lifestyle. We are blessed to have our well wishers for the last 20 years and counting now that we are stepping up to the 21st year with the best of Doctors, Surgeons and Paramedics for the Treatment of one and all. Best Wishes to Genesis Hospital Kasba Kolkata.

NAME CHANGE
I, A S Sai Sravan Keerthi (Old Name) S/O Krishna Murthy Animella Resident Of Tower 5, Floor 7G, Merlin Maximus, B.L Road, Opp. Audio Sodepur, Po-Panihati, Dist-North 24 Parganas, Pin-700014, West Bengal. I Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Animella Sathya Sai Shravan Keerthy(New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 13/02/2025. A S Sai Sravan Keerthi(Old Name) And Animella Sathya Sai Shravan Keerthy (New Name) All Are The Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Sekh Fazlul Quader (Old Name) S/O Late Sk Abdul Halim, Resident Of Vill- Rampura, Po & Ps - Mohanpur, Dist-West Medinipur, Pin-721436, West Bengal. I Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Sk Kabirul Islam (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 13/02/2025. That Sekh Kabirul Islam(Old Name) And Sk Kabirul Islam (New Name) All Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Lost trolley bag returned to a lady commuter by Metro staff

MI News Service, Kolkata: On 14.02.2025, at 11.25 hrs an on-duty RPF staff posted at Kavi Subhash Metro station while conducting a routine checking of a Metro rake recovered an unclaimed trolley bag from the rake and deposited it to the Station Master's Office after proper security checking. After opening the bag, some valuable items were found therein. Thereafter, Station Master made repeated announcements requesting the owner of the bag to collect it from the Station Master's Office and a control message was also communicated to all the stations.

After sometime, a lady came to the Station Master's Office of Kavi Subhash Metro station and claimed the ownership of the recovered trolley bag and the items containing therein. After proper verification and fulfilling all official formalities, the trolley bag along with all other items were handed over to her. She expressed her heartfelt gratitude to Metro Railway authorities for helping her to get back the lost trolley bag along with all other items.

Kolkata Police creates green corridor to help student reach exam centre on time

MI News Service, Kolkata: A CBSE student who mistakenly arrived at the wrong examination centre was saved by Kolkata Police, who swiftly created a green corridor to ensure the student reached the correct venue on time. The incident occurred on Saturday, the first day of the CBSE Class 10 and 12 board exams.

The student, from a Maheshkhala-based school, was scheduled to take the exam at a designated centre in Taratala. However, due to confusion, the student and their guardian mistakenly arrived at a school in Joka, which falls under the jurisdiction of the Haridevpur police station. Upon reaching the Joka school, they realized their mistake. The actual exam centre in Taratala was quite far, and time was running out. Panic set in as the student feared missing the exam. The guardian, unsure of what to do, grew anxious as the exam time approached.

Noticing their distress, Subhash Adhikari, a police officer on duty nearby, immediately intervened. Upon learning about the situation from the student's guardian, he acted swiftly. With just minutes left before the exam, he arranged for a Thakurpukur police vehicle to transport them to Taratala.

At the same time, the Lal-bazar Traffic Control Room was alerted, and a green corridor was created to ensure an uninterrupted passage through the city's busy roads. The police vehicle, facing minimal traffic disruptions, successfully reached the correct examination centre nearly 30 minutes before the exam began.

Upon arrival at the Taratala exam centre, the school authorities were initially hesitant to allow the student entry, as per exam regulations. However, the police officers quickly stepped in, explaining the situation and assuring them that it was a genuine mistake. To further clarify the matter, an official email was sent by the police to the school authorities.

After assessing the circumstances, the school administration granted entry, and the student was finally able to sit for the crucial exam. The timely action of Kolkata Police ensured that the student did not miss the exam, earning praise from both the student's family and school authorities. The incident highlights the police force's commitment to public service beyond law enforcement, demonstrating their dedication to helping citizens in distress.

In light of this incident, authorities are now urging parents and students to double-check exam centre locations beforehand to avoid similar mishaps in the future. The Kolkata Police's quick response and efficient coordination not only ensured a student's future was not compromised but also reinforced public trust in their ability to provide timely assistance in emergencies.

Railways' Bonanza for Maha Kumbh Mela Devotees: 4 more special train

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Maha Kumbh Mela, a once-in-12-years celestial event, holds immense spiritual and cultural significance for millions of devotees from across the globe. Recognized as the largest human congregation on Earth, the Maha Kumbh is a celebration of faith, devotion, and tradition. To ensure seamless travel and accommodate the massive influx of pilgrims attending this grand spiritual gathering, Railway is delighted to announce the operation of 11 pairs of Kumbh Mela Special trains which will run between Sealdah & Tundla, Howrah & Tundla, Asansol & Tundla and Malda Town & Jhusi. This initiative will generate more berths, providing safe, comfortable, and convenient travel options for devotees embarking on their sacred journey.

03105 Sealdah - Tunda Kumbh Mela Special will leave Sealdah at 08:10 hrs. on 21.02.2025 to reach Tundla Jn. at 06:30 hrs. on the next day. 03106 Tunda - Sealdah Kumbh Mela Special will leave Tundla at 11:20 hrs. on 22.02.2025 to reach Sealdah at 13:00 hrs. on the next day. The train will stop at Bardhaman, Durgapur, Asansol, Dhanbad, Nsc Bose J Gomo, Parasnath, Hazaribagh Rd, Koderma, Gaya, Anugraha N Road, Dehri on Sone, Sasaram, Bhabhu Rd, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Jn., Mirzapur, Pryagraj Jn., Fatehpur, Govindpuri and Etawah Jn. stations in both directions

The train will have Air-Conditioned accommodations. 03063 and 03035 Howrah - Tunda Kumbh Mela Special will leave Howrah at 19:35 hrs. on 15.02.2025, 22.02.2025 & 23.02.2025 to reach Tundla Jn. at 19:20 hrs. on the next day. 03064 and 03036 Tunda - Howrah Kumbh Mela Special will leave Tundla at 03:00 hrs. on 17.02.2025, 24.02.2025 & 25.02.2025 to reach Howrah at 02:30 hrs. on the next day. The train will stop at Bardhaman, Durgapur, Asansol, Dhanbad, Nsc Bose J Gomo, Parasnath, Hazaribagh Rd, Koderma, Gaya, Anugraha N Road, Dehri on Sone, Sasaram, Bhabhu Rd, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Jn., Mirzapur, Pryagraj Jn., Fatehpur, Govindpuri and Etawah Jn. stations in both directions enroute. The train will have General Second Class, Sleeper Class and Air-Conditioned accommodations.

03505 and 03561 Asansol - Tundla Kumbh Mela Special will leave Asansol at 11:15 hrs. on 18.02.2025 & 21.02.2025 respectively to reach Tundla Jn. at 07:00 hrs. on the next day. 03506 and 03562 Tundla Jn. - Asansol Kumbh Mela Special will leave Tundla Jn. at 11:40 hrs. on 19.02.2025 & 22.02.2025 respectively to reach Asansol at 09:50 hrs. on the next day. The train will stop at Chittaranjan, Madhupur, Jashidih, Jhajha, Kiul Jn, Patna Jn., Ara, Buxar, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Jn., Mirzapur, Pryagraj Jn., Fatehpur, Govindpuri and Etawah Jn. stations in both directions

enroute. The train will have Air-Conditioned accommodations. 03417, 03429 and 03411 Malda Town - Jhusi Kumbh Mela Special will leave Malda Town at 20:45 hrs. on 16.02.2025, 17.02.2025, 18.02.2025, 23.02.2025 and 24.02.2025 to reach Jhusi at 17:15 hrs. on the next day. 03418, 03430 and 03412 Jhusi - Malda Town Kumbh Mela Special will leave Jhusi at 19:15 hrs. on 17.02.2025, 18.02.2025, 19.02.2025, 24.02.2025 and 25.02.2025 to reach Malda Town at 14:30 hrs. on the next day. The train will stop at New Farakka Jn., Barharwa Jn., Sahibganj Jn., Kahalgaon, Bhagalpur, Sultanganj, Jamalpur Jn., Abhaipur, Kiul Jn. Mokameh, Barh, Bhaktiyarpur, Rajendra Nagar, Patna Jn., Danapur, Ara, Buxar, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Jn., Varanasi and Banaras stations in both directions enroute. The train will have General Second Class, Sleeper Class and Air-Conditioned accommodations.

The booking of 03063 and 03035 Howrah - Tunda Kumbh Mela Special is available through PRS and internet and booking of 03105 Sealdah - Tunda Kumbh Mela Special, 03505 and 03561 Asansol - Tunda Kumbh Mela Special and 03417, 03429 and 03411 Malda Town - Jhusi Kumbh Mela Special will be notified shortly.

Regulation of trains for developmental work over Sealdah division Train movements in Barasat- Bangaon & Krishnanagar-Lalgola sections will be regulated

MI News Service, Kolkata: For various developmental work, Traffic and Power block has been planned over Sealdah Division as under: (1) For removal of Permanent Speed Restriction, Traffic and Power block at Gobardanga station Limit on Down line from 22.45 hrs. on 15.02.2025 (Saturday) to 05.45 hrs. on 16.02.2025 (Sunday) and on UP line from 22.45 hrs. on 15.02.2025 (Saturday) to 08.45 hrs. on 16.02.2025 (Sunday); (2) For construction of Limited Height Subway in lieu of Level Crossing Gate no. 112(E) in Krishnanagar City-Lalgola section, Traffic & Power block on both UP & Down line for 06 hours 30 minutes (from 10.15 hrs. to 16.45 hrs.) on 16.02.2025 (Sunday); (3) For conversion of point no. 158A/159 on Down Suburban Line between Halisahar & Naihati stations, Traffic block from 22.30 hrs. on 15.02.2025 to 05.30 hrs. on 16.02.2025.

Sealdah-Habra: UP 33651, 33653/Down 33652, 33654. Naihati-Bandel: UP 37521/Down 37522. Sealdah-Gede: UP 31911/Down 31912. Sealdah-Shantipur: UP 31511/Down 31512. Naihati-Ranaghat: UP 31711/Down 31712. Sealdah-Ranaghat: UP 31611/Down 31612. Krishnanagar City-Lalgola: UP 31861/Down 31864. Lalgola-Sealdah: Down 53178/UP 53175. Ranaghat-Lalgola: UP 31773/Down 31774. Krishnanagar City-Azinganj: Down 53092/UP 53091.

SHORT TERMINATION AND SHORT ORIGINATION OF TRAINS: (i) 33857 UP Sealdah-Bangaon Local will be short terminated at Habra on Saturday (15.02.2025). (ii) 33811, 33813, 33815 & 33817 UP Sealdah-Bangaon Local will be short terminated at Habra on Sunday (16.02.2025) and 33812, 33814, 33816, 33818 & 33822 Down Bangaon-Sealdah Local will be short originated from Habra on Sunday (16.02.2025). (iii) 31192 Down Kalyani Simanta-Naihati Local will be short terminated at Kalyani (Platform No.4) instead of Naihati on Saturday (15.02.2025) and 31191 UP Naihati-Kalyani Simanta Local will be short originated from Kalyani (Platform no.4) instead of Naihati on Sunday (16.02.2025). (iv) 63107 UP Sealdah-Lalgola MEMU Passenger will be short terminated at Rejinagar on Sunday (16.02.2025) and 63104 Down Lalgola-Sealdah MEMU Passenger will be short originated from Rejinagar instead of Lalgola and will be re-scheduled at 14:00 hrs (from Rejinagar) on Sunday (16.02.2025). (v) 31769 UP Ranaghat-Lalgola Local will be short terminated at Rejinagar on Sunday (16.02.2025) and 31770 Down Lalgola-Ranaghat Local will be short originated from Rejinagar instead of Lalgola and will be re-scheduled at 15:00 hrs (from Rejinagar) on Sunday (16.02.2025). (vi) 31819 UP Sealdah-Krishnanagar City Local will be short terminated at Ranaghat on Sunday (16.02.2025) and 31840 Down Krishnanagar City-Sealdah Local will be short originated from Ranaghat instead of Krishnanagar City on Sunday (16.02.2025).

RE-SCHEDULING OF TRAINS ON SUNDAY (16.02.2025): (i) 33819 UP Sealdah-Bangaon Local will be re-scheduled for 30 min i.e. will leave from Sealdah at 07:42 hrs instead of 07:12 hrs. (ii) 33361 UP Barasat-Bangaon Local will be re-scheduled for 30 min i.e. will leave from Barasat at 08:15 hrs instead of 07:45 hrs and will be controlled up to Habra till cancellation of Block. (iii) 53180 DN Lalgola-Sealdah Passenger will be re-scheduled for 75 min, i.e. will leave from Lalgola at 16:00 hrs instead of 14:45 hrs.

Consequently, following arrangements have been made in train running: CANCELLATION OF TRAINS ON SATURDAY (15.02.2025): Sealdah-Bangaon: UP 33851, 33859, 33861, 33863/Down 33854, 33856, 33858, 33860. Naihati-Bandel: UP 37557/Down 37558. Sealdah-Gede: UP 31929/Down 31928. Sealdah-Shantipur: UP 31539/Down 31542. CANCELLATION OF TRAINS ON SUNDAY (16.02.2025): Barasat-Bangaon: UP 33369/Down 33368.

A New Era in Advanced Gynaecological Surgery Begins at Kanchrapara Railway Hospital



This achievement marks a new milestone in providing cutting-edge, minimally invasive surgical care to railway employees and their families. The procedure was performed on a 48-year-old patient diagnosed with Dysfunctional Uterine Bleeding (DUB), a debilitating condition that causes excessive and irregular menstrual bleeding, often affecting daily life and overall well-being. Traditional treatment options can be invasive and require longer recovery times, but laparoscopic surgery provides a safer, faster, and more efficient alternative.

Using one 10mm port and three 5mm ports, the uterus, both ovaries, and fallopian tubes were removed with precision, ensuring minimal trauma and faster healing. The vaginal vault was expertly closed using advanced laparoscopic endosturting, reinforcing the hospital's expertise in minimally invasive techniques. Thanks to this approach, the patient recovered smoothly and was discharged on the third day, demonstrating the hospital's commitment to quality post-operative care. This successful procedure reflects the unwavering dedication of the hospital's surgical team and highlights its mission to bring world-class medical treatment within the reach of railway employees and their families. With continuous advancements in medical technology, Kanchrapara Railway Hospital is setting new benchmarks in healthcare, ensuring faster recovery, reduced hospital stays, and superior patient outcomes.

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Pioneering Study on Hinduphobia by Gandhian Peace Society Highlights Systemic Challenges

New Delhi : In a landmark move, the Scotland Holyrood's Cross-Party Group (CPG) on Challenging Racial and Religious Prejudice has accepted a comprehensive report documenting anti-Hindu discrimination in Scotland. Titled "Hinduphobia in Scotland: Understanding, Addressing, and Overcoming Prejudice", the study by the Gandhian Peace Society (GPS) is the first UK parliamentary-recognized analysis of its kind, blending statistical data with first-hand accounts from Scotland's Hindu community.

The report, presented by Anuranjan Jha (President of GPS), Dhruva Kumar, Sukhi Singh Bains, and contributed by Ajit Trivedi, with special input from Neil Lal, President of the Indian Council of Scotland, was discussed at the Cross-Party Group meeting chaired by Foysoil Choudhary and convened by Professor Peter Hopkins. The group includes representatives from the Jewish, Muslim, and Hindu communities, emphasising a cross-cultural dialogue on prejudice and religious discrimination.

Professor Peter Hopkins commended the report's comprehensive nature, while Foysoil Choudhary praised the Gandhian Peace Society for bringing Hinduphobia into public discourse. Dhruva Kumar, General Secretary of the Gandhian Peace Society, emphasised the significance of addressing Hinduphobia, noting its impact on daily life, workplaces, and educational institutions.

Key Findings: Rising Prejudice and Institutional Gaps

The report, presented to the CPG on 23 January, reveals systemic challenges faced by Scotland's Hindu population, which constitutes 0.3% of the country's 5.4 million residents. Key findings include:



o **Surge in Hate Crimes:** Police records show a 56% increase in charges linked to anti-Hindu prejudice between 2019-2021. Incidents range from the 2021 vandalism of Dundee's Shree Sanatan Mandir with anti-Hindu graffiti to a 2020 arson attack on Edinburgh's Radha Krishna Temple.

o **Workplace Discrimination:** Hindus face the lowest public-sector recruitment rates among religious groups-1.99% at NHS Greater Glasgow, 2.7% at Glasgow City Council, and 1.39% at Renfrewshire Council. A 2022 study found 93% of Hindu employees avoid religious attire at work, while 38% report denied religious holiday requests.

o **Social Stigma:** 16% of Scots surveyed expressed discomfort with a relative marrying a Hindu, surpassing rates for Muslims (14%), Jews (11%), or Buddhists (9%).

Collaborative Research and Parliamentary Response The GPS, a charity founded on Mahatma Gandhi's principles of nonviolence, collaborated with academics, interfaith leaders, and Hindu community members over 8 months to compile the report. Prof Dhruva Kumar, GPS General Secretary and former parliamentary candidate, spearheaded the research.

"This report isn't just about data-it's about lived experiences," said Kumar. "From temple attacks to workplace bias, Scottish Hindus deserve safety and dignity."

The CPG, praised the study as "a critical tool for policymakers," adding that it "bridges gaps in understanding religious discrimination." Professor Peter Hopkins, CPG Convenor, emphasised its "evidence-based approach" to fostering inclusive

policies. **Recommendations for Action**

The report proposes a four-pillar strategy:

- 1. Legal Reforms:** Strengthen Scotland's Hate Crime Act to explicitly recognize Hinduphobia.
- 2. Education:** Revise school curricula to include accurate Hindu teachings and history.
- 3. Workplace Policies:** Mandate anti-discrimination training and religious accommodation guidelines.
- 4. Community Support:** Establish interfaith networks and victim support hubs.

Sukhi Bains, a diversity consultant and co-author, stressed collaboration: "This isn't a Hindu issue alone. It's about building a Scotland where diversity is protected."

Global Context and Grassroots Impact While small in number, Scottish Hindus have contributed significantly to sectors like healthcare, education, and technology. The report has garnered attention from 100+ media outlets globally, including ANI and ThePrint. The report has sparked widespread public dialogue, with its findings and implications discussed on Awaz FM 107.2 by Dhruva Kumar, Sukhi Bains, and Acharya Abhishek Joshi. Their discussions focused on the need for societal change, garnering strong support from listeners across Scotland. Indian community members Acharya Abhishek Joshi, Awaz FM co-presenter Rishab Choudhary, renowned surgeon and devout Hindu Dr. Sanjeev Chitnis, and Poonam Prajapati, a leading figure in Hindi education in Scotland, expressed their strong appreciation for the report and shared their experiences on Awaz FM, a prominent Asian radio station in Scotland.

How Fertility Centers are Adapting to Later Parenthood Trends



Kolkata: Dr. Sugata shares In recent years, fertility centers across India have witnessed a significant shift in the age of individuals and couples seeking reproductive assistance. With societal changes and evolving career priorities, more people are opting to start their families later in life. This has led to the growing trend of later parenthood, prompting fertility centers to adapt their services to cater to the unique needs of older parents.

"Fertility centers are adapting to the growing trend of later parenthood by offering innovative solutions that cater to the unique needs of older individuals and couples. As more people choose to start families in their 30s and 40s, fertility centers are providing advanced options such as egg freezing, genetic testing, and personalized IVF treatments to improve success rates," says Dr. Sugata Mishra, IVF Specialist at Birla Fertility and IVF, Kolkata.

As the average age of first-time mothers continues to rise, many women are opting to preserve their fertility by freezing their eggs. This option allows them to delay childbearing until they are ready, without compromising their chances of conception. Furthermore, genetic testing has gained prominence as a tool to identify potential risks and ensure the health of both the mother and child.

Fertility centers are also offering personalized IVF treatments tailored to the specific needs of older patients. Advanced technologies, such as embryo freezing, genetic screening, and improved culture media, have significantly increased the success rates of fertility treatments.

Dr. Sugata shares "Additionally, these centers are focusing on educating patients about fertility preservation, offering financial support options, and ensuring access to the latest tech-

V D Satheesan questions basis of Shashi Tharoor article praising Kerala's entrepreneurial growth



Malappuram (Kerala): Leader of Opposition in the state assembly V D Satheesan on Saturday questioned the basis for Congress MP Shashi Tharoor's recent article in an English daily praising the entrepreneurial growth in Kerala under the LDF government.

Tharoor in his article had also said that Kerala was well positioned to continue leading India's tech and entrepreneurial transformation.

On Saturday, speaking to reporters at Perinthalmanna here, Satheesan said neither he nor the party knows what were the circumstances or statistics based on which the Congress MP wrote the article.

"The party can examine the circumstances or the statistics based on which he wrote it," he said.

On the other hand, Kerala Industries Minister P Rajeev supported Tharoor's article, saying that the Congress MP always talks based on facts.

Rejecting what Tharoor said about the industrial sector in Kerala, Satheesan claimed that the state did not have a good industrial environment.

"It needs to improve. We want it to improve," he said.

The opposition leader further said that he had recently questioned Rajeev's claim that in the last three-and-a-half years, three lakh new enterprises were started in Kerala.

"If that was true, I asked him which were these 3 lakh new enterprises as there has to be a minimum of 2,000 such entities in every assembly constituency.

"Are there 2,000 such enterprises in Perinthalmanna? How about 500?" Satheesan asked.

He further said that small bakeries, garment shops or roadside

stalls set up by Malayalees returning from abroad should not be counted as industrial enterprises in Kerala.

"So, we do not agree with the state government's claim," he said.

He said that the opposition was willing to help in establishing an excellent industrial environment in the state.

Responding to Tharoor's article, Rajeev said that the Congress MP's praise was for the state as a whole and not just the Left government or the chief minister.

"The opposition too can claim a share of that praise as a lot of developmental and entrepreneurial work has taken place in their constituencies," he said.

He further said that Tharoor's article only indicated his interest for the state being a Malayalee and an MP from Kerala. The minister also said that the state has received various accolades for its achievements in the industrial and entrepreneurial fields which have been acknowledged by everyone. "The acknowledgements are meant for the entire state and not just the CPI(M) and the LDF. We should all work together to strengthen these fields. Some are forgetting to do so due to their narrow political mindsets. Hopefully they will change their stand," Rajeev said.

"Making miracle of mind sparkle" Sadhguru shares tips for exam students on 'Pariksha Pe Charcha'

New Delhi : Appearing on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Pariksha Pe Charcha', Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev, spiritual leader and founder of the Isha Foundation, advised students to approach textbooks playfully and not consider them a challenge ahead of any examination. Interacting with students at the eighth edition of 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' Sadhguru said, "Your textbook is not a challenge for your intelligence, no matter who you are. No matter if you have not done well in school till now, I'm still telling you for your intelligence that textbooks are not a challenge. You're unnecessarily making it difficult for yourself by approaching it in a certain way. Make your textbook itself into a play. Why can't you learn playfully? If you make it playful, your textbook is not a challenge."

He said that if students have to be competent, they need access. "To find access, there are many aspects to it. One important thing is you have an active dynamic intelligence. Don't ever think, am I as intelligent as this person or that person? There is no such thing. It is a farce that has been spread in



the world," he further said. He said that everybody can sparkle in the world.

"Everybody can sparkle and do things that others cannot imagine. The only thing is, because there is no striving, that sparkle doesn't happen. School, education and examination is about the longing to know, making the miracle of your mind sparkle. There are a lot of studies that are brain mapping. Recent studies have shown

when people become meditative with Shambhavi Mahamudra, they see large part of the brain is lit up, this needs to happen that everything is lit up," he said.

He said that what people use is up to them.

"Intelligence is not about usefulness. Intelligence creates a profoundness of experience of life. The more you activate your intelligence, the more access you have to everything that you see.

When your physical body is well exercised it can function better. Then why is it not true with mental faculties? The more exercised you are the better they function. If you save it for future it will vanish. It is like a cloud," Sadhguru said.

The Pariksha Pe Charcha episode was broadcast across platforms including on the Prime Minister and PMO's X profile and the PM's YouTube Channel.

Since 2018, PM Modi has been hosting this annual event to interact with students, teachers, and parents, offering guidance on staying stress-free during exams. The event is organized by the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education. The first three editions of PPC were held in New Delhi in a town hall interactive format. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the fourth edition was held online in the form of a program telecast on Doordarshan and all major TV channels. The fifth, sixth and seventh editions of PPC were again held in town-hall format at Talkatora Stadium, New Delhi.

VP Dhankhar attends SMVDU convocation in J-K says national interest supreme



Katra : Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Saturday attended the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) convocation here, emphasising that national interest is bigger than any political or individual interest.

Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Educational minister Sakeena Firdous also attended the 10th convocation at Matrika Auditorium of the SMVDU campus.

"We are Indians and being Indian is our identity. Nationalism is our religion and it is our duty to keep nationalism at the highest level whatever the situation," the vice president said, addressing the convocation. "No political or indi-

vidual interest can be bigger than the national interest," he said, highlighting India's progress under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the past 10 years. We must march ahead, fast-tracking our journey toward a developed Bharat, he said. "One significant step in this direction is the transformation from the Danda Vidhan to the Nyaya Vidhan, unshackling the colonial mindset." "You are living in a confident and resilient India," the vice president said. Today, Bharat is being celebrated globally as a favorite destination for investment and opportunity. Never before in our history since independence has the voice of an Indian Prime Minister been so

resonant with global leaders, he said. Dhankhar emphasised that the transformation in Jammu and Kashmir is not just a regional phenomenon but a significant part of India's national renaissance.

In the academic year 2023-24, a total of 684 students of the SMVDU have qualified for the Bachelor's Degree in different disciplines; 147 students for Master's Degree; 34 students for Integrated Master's degree and 44 students for the award of Ph D Degree. A total of 26 medals, nine certificates of distinction and 10 Infosys foundation prize for excellence were presented to the selected students by the dignitaries, a university official said.

UAE launches landmark \$60 million initiative to expand accessible education for visually impaired students in Ethiopia

Abu Dhabi [UAE] : Under the directives of UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the UAE announced a new USD 60 million initiative from the Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Foundation for the development of schools to support the educational needs of visually impaired students across Ethiopia.

This initiative will be led by the Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Foundation, a portfolio entity of Erth Zayed Philanthropies, in collaboration with the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. It builds on the success of the Sheikh Fatima bint Mubarak School for the Blind in Addis Ababa, which was inaugurated in May 2024.

The agreement was signed by Mohamed Haji AlKhoori, Director-General of the Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Foundation, in the presence of Sheikh Shakhboot bin Nahyan Al Nahyan, Minister of State and member of the Board of Trustee of Erth Zayed Philanthropies, along with Zinash Tayachew, First Lady of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, among other dignitaries.

With an estimated 1.2 million visually impaired individuals in Ethiopia, including 332,000 classified as blind, this initiative directly addresses a pressing humanitarian need by reaching rural areas where educational and healthcare services remain limited. Ethiopia also has one of the highest global rates of trachoma, a preventable eye disease



that disproportionately affects underserved communities. With the support of the Ethiopian Ministry of Education, the new schools will serve as centres of excellence, integrating cutting-edge assistive technologies, specialised curricula, and tailored vocational programmes to empower visually impaired students with the skills necessary for higher education and workforce integration.

Sheikh Theyab bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Chairman of the Presidential Court for Development and Fallen Heroes' Affairs, Chairman of the International Humanitarian and Philanthropic Council, and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Erth Zayed Philanthropies, said, "The UAE remains dedicated to supporting people of determination worldwide. A key element is ensuring that visually impaired

students in Ethiopia can access inspiring and inclusive learning environments that meet their specialised needs, thereby enabling them to reach their full potential. This initiative represents the shared commitment by the UAE and Ethiopia to ensure that everyone, regardless of the challenges they may face, can thrive in an inclusive and equitable global society." Sheikh Shakhboot bin Nahyan Al Nahyan said, "The UAE has long recognised that sustainable development and strategic collaboration are the key drivers of lasting change. This initiative reflects our unwavering commitment to uplifting communities, creating economic opportunities, and expanding access to essential services. Our partnership furthers the vision of African states to invest in education as a catalyst for future prosperity, empowering youth to realise

their full potential and drive sustainable growth."

First Lady Zinash Tayachew added, "We are grateful to the UAE for their continued partnership, which supports our goal of ensuring that every citizen, regardless of their abilities, has access to quality education. Together, our shared commitment will help to create a more inclusive society where every student has the opportunity to succeed." Mohamed Haji AlKhoori said, "Education is a fundamental right, and every child deserves the opportunity to learn in an environment that supports their unique needs. By strengthening educational systems, we are laying the foundation for a more inclusive and equitable future. This initiative reaffirms the power of global partnerships in driving lasting impact, ensuring that education remains a catalyst for opportunity and empowerment for generations to come."

Together with the Sheikh Fatima bint Mubarak School for the Blind, the new schools announced today will create a network across Ethiopia to expand access to inclusive education. The UAE's commitment to strengthening Ethiopia's educational infrastructure ensures that every visually impaired child, regardless of socioeconomic background, can thrive in a supportive learning environment that empowers them to contribute to society.

Forced displacement in Gaza 'pure brutality': Erdogan

MI News Service, Ankara: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan strongly condemned any forced displacement in Gaza, calling it "pure brutality" and completely unacceptable.

Speaking to journalists on his flight from visits to Malaysia, Indonesia, and Pakistan, Erdogan said on Friday that the US "is making a serious miscalculation regarding our region."

He emphasised that it was crucial not to adopt an approach that disregards the history, values, and accumulated experience of the region. He also warned that ignoring the suffering there



would not benefit Washington, Xinhua news agency reported.

Erdogan called on US President Donald Trump to honor his pre-election promises by pursuing peace rather than war.

"There is no place in this region for an 'I did it, so it's done' approach," he said.

Erdogan highlighted the humanitarian and legal concerns surrounding the ongoing crisis, stressed the need for a fair solution

that respects international law and human rights, and reaffirmed Türkiye's commitment to advocating for Palestinian rights on the international stage.

"It is crucial to ensure the protection of the Palestinian people and to seek a fair solution. Türkiye has always defended Palestinian rights and has actively worked to draw attention to this issue on the international platform. Our efforts in securing ceasefires cannot be denied," the president said.

"Any steps taken must be in line with the will of the Palestinian people and should offer a truly fair resolution," he said.

Vance accuses European politicians of censoring free speech

MI News Service, Washington DC: U.S. Vice President JD Vance on Friday took a swipe at European governments for what he described as their censorship of free speech and their political opponents, while largely avoiding the question of how to resolve the Ukraine war.

Speaking to European political leaders, military officers and diplomats at the Munich Security Conference, Vance surprised the audience by dismissing the risk of Russian political interference in Europe, taking a similar stance to U.S. President Donald Trump, who has railed against claims by U.S. intelligence agencies that Russia had interfered on his behalf in the 2016 election.

Vance adopted a confrontational tone, accusing European politicians of what he said was a fear of their own people and warned them that the real threat against

their democracy was not from Russia or China.

"The threat I worry the most about vis-à-vis Europe is not Russia, it's not China, it's not any other external actor. What I worry about is the threat from within, the retreat of Europe from some of its most fundamental values, values shared with the United States of America," Vance said.

The future of Ukraine was at the top of the agenda in Munich after a phone call between Trump and Russian leader Vladimir Putin this week where they pledged to work together to end the conflict, but Vance did not bring it up.

Instead, he said Brussels had shut down social media over hateful content, and criticized Germany for what he described as raids against its own citizens for posting anti-feminist comments, Sweden for convicting a Christian activist, and



United Kingdom for backsliding on religious rights. A Reuters reporter in one of the side rooms where more delegates could listen to Vance said people appeared stunned and did not applaud. The vice president's speech sparked immediate criticism in Europe. "Vance's attack on European democracy in Munich, perversely twisting the language of democracy itself should leave

no doubt whatsoever that the aim of this administration is to destroy the EU and its liberal democracies," said Nathalie Tocci, director of Istituto Affari Internazionali think tank. Responding to Vance's speech, German Defense Minister Boris Pistorius told the conference: "If I understood him correctly he is comparing parts of Europe with authoritarian regimes. This is not acceptable."

Bolivia's heavy rains claim 28 lives as death toll rises

MI News Service, La Paz: The death toll due to heavy rains in Bolivia since November last year has risen to 28, said Juan Carlos Calvimontes, vice civil defence minister, on Friday.

The rains have affected eight of the country's nine Administrative divisions. "We are talking about 83 municipalities affected, and I am sure that within a week many of them will declare themselves in disaster," the official told a press conference.

So far, 27 municipalities have declared themselves in a state of emergency, of which 22 belong to La Paz, the Administrative division hardest hit by the climate.

According to the government, the deaths were caused by floods in the departments of Chuquisaca (south), La Paz (west), Tarija (south), Cochabamba (centre), Santa Cruz (east), and Potosí (southwest).

In addition, four people remain missing, three of them in the north of La Paz and one in Chuquisaca.

The National Meteorology and Hydrology Service predicted that the rains will persist in the coming weeks, possibly extending until March and April.

Qatar's Amir Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani to visit India on Feb 17-18

MI News Service, New Delhi: Amir of Qatar, Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani, will pay a state visit to India on February 17-18 at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced on Saturday.

The statement noted that the Amir will be accompanied by a high-level delegation, including Ministers, senior officials, and a business delegation. This will be his second visit to India, the first being in March 2015.

The Amir will be accorded a ceremonial welcome at Rashtrapati Bhawan on February 18. During his visit, he will hold discussions with President Droupadi Murmu, who will also host a banquet in his honour. He will also hold talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, covering bilateral relations, trade, investment, energy, and regional issues, the MEA mentioned.

India and Qatar have deep-rooted historical ties of friendship, trust and mutual respect.

Earlier this year, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar visited Doha for his first diplomatic engagement of 2025, where he met Qatar's Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani.

Following the meeting in a post on X, Jaishankar said, "I am delighted to meet PM and FM Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani in Doha today. This is my first diplomatic engagement in 2025. We will have a productive review of our bilateral cooperation and a wide-ranging discussion on recent regional and global developments."

In recent years, the ties between the two countries including in the areas of trade, investment, energy, technology, culture and people-to-people ties have continued to strengthen, the MEA noted.

Further, the MEA in its statement added that the Indian community residing in Qatar forms the largest expatriate community of Qatar, and is appreciated for its positive contribution in the progress and development of Qatar. The visit of the Amir will provide further momentum to our growing multifaceted partnership.

If Trump can truly convince Putin to stop Ukraine aggression, it's great news: French Prez Macron

MI News Service, Paris: French President Emmanuel Macron held discussions with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and said that if US President Donald Trump can "truly convince" President Vladimir Putin to stop the aggression against Ukraine, will be a "great news."

Macron on Friday further emphasised that if this happens, then Ukrainians alone can lead the discussions for "solid and lasting peace."

Sharing a post on X, Macron wrote, "I just spoke with President @ZelenskyyUa. If President @realDonaldTrump can truly convince President Putin to stop the aggression against Ukraine, that is great news. Then, it will be the Ukrainians alone who can drive the discussions for a solid and lasting peace. We will help them in this endeavor."

He added, "And we, Euro-

peans, will need to strengthen our collective security and become more autonomous. France will fully play its role in accelerating this process. A stronger and more sovereign Europe, let's make it happen now."

Meanwhile, Zelenskyy said that he had a "productive conversation" with Macron and emphasised the importance of developing a joint strategy with the US and Europe for a "just peace."

In a post on X, Zelenskyy wrote, "I had a productive conversation with French President @EmmanuelMacron. I informed him about today's meeting with U.S. Vice President J.D. Vance and my recent phone call with President Trump."

"We must develop a joint strategy with the U.S. and Europe to bring about a just peace and sit all at the negotiation table together. We

discussed many key issues, including security guarantees and France's concrete proposals. It is crucial that we share the same vision of what a just end to this war should look like. I appreciate France's efforts for our collective security and its commitment to the principle: "Nothing about Ukraine without Ukraine," he added.

Notably, Trump on Wednesday (local time) held a telephone conversation with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin and revealed that he had a productive phone call with him. They agreed to kick-start negotiations aimed at ending the conflict in Ukraine immediately. Trump said that he and Putin agreed to have their respective teams start negotiations immediately and begin by calling Ukraine President Zelenskyy regarding the conversation.

Muhammad Yunus, Elon Musk hold talks to bring Starlink Internet to Bangladesh

MI News Service, Bangladesh: Bangladesh's Chief Adviser, Professor Muhammad Yunus on Friday said that he has discussed with Tesla CEO Elon Musk on a potential collaboration to launch Starlink satellite internet service in Bangladesh.

Sharing a post on X on Saturday, the Chief Adviser of the Government of Bangladesh wrote, "Had great meeting with Mr Elon Musk. We agreed to work together, hoping to launch Starlink in Bangladesh soon together with him."

extensive video discussion with Musk, the founder of SpaceX, Tesla, and X to make further progress in introducing Starlink satellite to enhance internet service in Bangladesh.

Professor Yunus also extended an invitation to Elon Musk to visit Bangladesh for the potential launch of Starlink ser-



vices, underscoring the significance of this initiative for national development, to which Musk responded positively.

"I look forward to it," Musk said. Present in the discussion between Musk and Yunus were Khalilur Rahman, High Representative for the Rohingya crisis and priority issues, and Lamiya Morshed, Principal Coordinator of SDGs, on the Bangladesh side, and Lauren Dreyer, Vice President and Richard Griffiths, Global Engagement Adviser from Space X.

During their conversation, Yunus and Musk emphasised the multinational impact of Starlink's satellite communications, particularly for Bangladesh's enterprising youth, rural and vulnerable women and remote communities.

They also discussed how high-speed, low-cost internet connectivity could bridge the digital divide in Bangladesh, empowering education, healthcare, and economic development in underserved regions and giving its millions of small and micro-entrepreneurs access beyond the national boundary, the Chief Adviser of the Government of Bangladesh said in a press release.

Yunus stated that integrating Starlink's connectivity into Bangladesh's infrastructure would create new opportunities for millions and integrate the country more closely into the global digital economy.

Israel Defense Force announces return of three hostages after 498 days in captivity



MI News Service, Tel Aviv: The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) on Saturday announced the return of three hostages--Alexandre, Sagui, and lair-- after 498 days in captivity.

The IDF confirmed that the hostages are being accompanied by IDF and Israel Security Agency (ISA) forces as they make their way back to Israeli territory. Upon arrival, they will undergo an initial medical assessment.

Sharing a post on X, IDF wrote, "After 498 days, Alexandre, Sagui and lair are finally home."

In another post, it wrote, "The 3 returning hostages are currently being accom-

panied by IDF and ISA forces on their return to Israeli territory, where they will undergo an initial medical assessment. The IDF salutes and embraces the returning hostages as they make their way home to the State of Israel."

It added, "According to information communicated by the Red Cross, 3 hostages were transferred to them and are on their way toward IDF and ISA forces in Gaza."

In Tel Aviv, the release of the three men was greeted with cheers from the crowd that had gathered at the Hostages' Square, TPS reported.

Alexandre Sasha Trufanov, 29, a dual citizen of Israel and Russia was abducted on October 7 from his family home in kibbutz Nir Oz, where he was visiting that Saturday together with his girlfriend Sapir Cohen. Hamas terrorists murdered his father and took the remaining four family members captive.

Sagui Dekel-Chen, 36, is one of three American citizens who was believed to be still alive at the beginning of the ceasefire. Also a resident of Kibbutz Nir Oz, Dekel-Chen managed to keep his wife, Avital, seven months pregnant on October 7 safe alongside with his two daughters while his mother, who was injured, played dead to survive. He will be seeing his third daughter for the first time.

Yair Horn, 46, was abducted from Kibbutz Nir Oz together with his younger brother, Eitan, who had come to visit him on that day from Kfar Saba in central Israel. Their family made Aliyah from Argentina. For Yair and Eitan's parents, the ordeal will not end with Yair's release as Eitan, 38, will not be among the hostages the terrorists will release in the first phase of the deal.

Four dead as van carrying pilgrims overturns

MI News Service, Nawabshah: At least four people lost their lives, and ten others sustained injuries when a van carrying pilgrims overturned in Nawabshah, ARY News reported.

The accident occurred on Amri Road when the speeding van, en route to Sehwan Sharif, lost control and overturned. Rescue teams arrived at the scene, and police confirmed that the deceased and injured had been transported to a nearby hospital for medical assistance.

Authorities have yet to determine the exact cause of the accident, but initial reports suggest that the driver may have been speeding. The identities of the victims have not yet been disclosed.

This tragic incident follows a series of recent road accidents in Pakistan. On January 5, at least three people were killed in a separate accident near the Ada Gajiyani area. Rescue sources reported that more than 20 others were injured in that collision and were transported to the nearest hospital for treatment, reported ARY News.

Similarly, on December 30, 2024, at least 10 people lost their lives in a devastating bus crash near Punjab's Fateh Jang area. The bus travelling on the M-14 motorway from Bahawalpur to Islamabad, met with a fatal accident near Fateh Jang. Seven others were injured and were taken to Tehsil Headquarters Hospital for medical attention, ARY News reported. According to the Motorway Police, negligence on the part of the bus driver was the primary cause of that accident.

China tightens grip on Tibetan Buddhism with new law intensifying state control

MI News Service, Dharamshala: The State Administration for Religious Affairs, China's primary body overseeing recognised religions, introduced an updated version of the Measures for the Administration of Tibetan Buddhist Temples on December 1, 2024.

According to a report by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD), the new law--adopted in September 2024 and enacted on January 1, 2025--"greatly increased state control over Tibetan religious practice by integrating political directives into Tibetan religious administration."

To further entwine religious practice with state ideology, the amendment "adds explicit political conditions. By making these demands legally binding, the CCP strengthens its hold over

monasteries and clergy," the TCHRD report stated.

The report highlighted that to "create a strong sense of community for the Chinese nation," Tibetan Buddhists are subtly under pressure to integrate their unique culture and identity into the prevailing Han Chinese framework." This policy aligns with China's broader efforts to assimilate Tibetan culture and "fits in with the CCP's overarching objective of sinicising religion."

The updated Measures for the Administration of Tibetan Buddhist Temples enforce "political loyalty criteria in religious administration, therefore methodically enforcing the Chinese Communist Party's ideological grip over Tibetan Buddhism."

TCHRD outlined how these measures undermine China's legal protections,

specifically Article 36 of the Constitution, which "expressly grants citizens the right to freedom of religious belief," and Article 11 of the Regional National Autonomy Law. These actions, it stated, "are a part of the larger state efforts to integrate Tibetan spiritual and cultural identity into the dominant Han identity."

"The Chinese government has significantly escalated its suppression of religious freedom in Tibet in the last decade," said Dawa Tashi, a researcher at TCHRD. "Through coercive 'patriotic education' campaigns designed to instill loyalty, strict control over monastic institutions, and widespread arbitrary arrests and detentions, authorities have tightened their grip. Today, religion in Tibet is not just regulated--it is ruled with an iron fist."

131 Pakistanis deported from 12 countries for legal offences

MI News Service, Karachi: 131 Pakistani nationals have been expelled from 12 different countries due to various legal violations, since earlier on Friday, including drug-related offences, illegal entry, and failure to comply with employment regulations, The News International reported.

Authorities in multiple nations carried out these deportations, citing breaches of local laws, with some individuals facing immediate removal upon arrival.

According to immigration sources, Saudi Arabia led the deportations, sending back 74 Pakistani citizens

for alleged involvement in drug trafficking and violating employment agreements by leaving jobs without prior notice. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) also deported several Pakistani nationals, charging them with illegal entry, theft, and drug-related offences.

In one case, a person was denied entry upon arrival and immediately sent back to Pakistan, while another individual was deported from the UAE following allegations of attempting to take their own life.

Apart from these two major deporting nations, other Pakistani nationals were expelled from Oman,

Cambodia, Bahrain, Azerbaijan, Iraq, and Mexico. Furthermore, in a separate incident, two individuals suspected of human smuggling were deported from Mauritania and Senegal, as per reports by The News International.

Upon their return to Pakistan, 16 deportees were transferred to the Federal Investigation Agency's (FIA) Anti-Human Trafficking Circle for further inquiry. Meanwhile, six individuals were handed over to law enforcement agencies in Larkana, Kalat, Gujranwala, Sahiwal, and Rawalpindi for additional investigation into their cases.

UAE launches landmark \$60 million initiative to expand accessible education for visually impaired students in Ethiopia

MI News Service, Abu Dhabi: Under the directives of UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the UAE announced a new USD 60 million initiative for the development of schools to support the educational needs of visually impaired students across Ethiopia.

This initiative will be led by the Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Foundation, a portfolio entity of Erth Zayed Philanthropies, in collaboration with the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. It builds on the success of the Sheikh Fatima bint Mubarak School for the Blind in Addis Ababa, which was inaugurated in May 2024.

The agreement was signed by Mohamed Haji AlKhoori, Director-General of the Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Foundation, in the presence of Sheikh Shakhboot bin Nahyan Al Nahyan, Minister of State and member of the Board of Trustees of Erth Zayed Philanthropies, along with Zinash Tayachew, First Lady of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, among other dignitaries.

With an estimated 1.2 million visually impaired



individuals in Ethiopia, including 332,000 classified as blind, this initiative directly addresses a pressing humanitarian need by reaching rural areas where educational and healthcare services remain limited.

Ethiopia also has one of the highest global rates of trachoma, a preventable eye disease that disproportionately affects underserved communities. With the support of the Ethiopian Ministry of Education, the new schools will serve as centres of excellence, integrating cutting-edge assistive technologies, specialised curricula, and tailored vocational programmes to empower visually impaired students with the skills necessary for higher education and work-

force integration.

Sheikh Theyab bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Chairman of the Presidential Court for Development and Fallen Heroes' Affairs, Chairman of the International Humanitarian and Philanthropic Council, and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Erth Zayed Philanthropies, said, "The UAE remains dedicated to supporting people of determination worldwide. A key element is ensuring that visually impaired students in Ethiopia can access inspiring and inclusive learning environments that meet their specialised needs, thereby enabling them to reach their full potential. This initiative represents the shared commitment by the

UAE and Ethiopia to ensure that everyone, regardless of the challenges they may face, can thrive in an inclusive and equitable global society."

Sheikh Shakhboot bin Nahyan Al Nahyan said, "The UAE has long recognised that sustainable development and strategic collaboration are the key drivers of lasting change. This initiative reflects our unwavering commitment to uplifting communities, creating economic opportunities, and expanding access to essential services. Our partnership furthers the vision of African states to invest in education as a catalyst for future prosperity, empowering youth to realise their full potential and drive sustainable growth."

ICC Champions Trophy 2025: Where to watch, LIVE streaming details explained

With only days to go before the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 tees off in Pakistan and the UAE, cricket fever is at its peak. It will feature eight teams split into two groups of four, with the top two from each group entering the semifinals.

Pakistan will be hosting an ICC event for the first time since 1996, when it co-hosted the ODI World Cup along with India and Sri Lanka. The matches will be played in Karachi, Lahore and Rawalpindi.

The hosts will take on New Zealand in the tournament opener.



However, owing to security concerns, India will play all their matches in Dubai. The Rohit Sharma-led side will begin their campaign on February 20 against Bangladesh.

ICC Champions Trophy 2025: LIVE telecast in India and LIVE streaming details Cricket buffs can watch the tournament via ICC.tv and listen to the free audio via the ICC match centre globally.

Or, you can watch it on Star Sports, which is the official broadcaster for the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 in India.

In India, JioHotstar will be streaming the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 matches

for free, and will be complemented by four multi-cam feeds. The coverage will also include the Indian Sign Language feed and Audio Descriptive Commentary. The vertical feed (MaxView), too, will be available.

ICC Champions Trophy 2025: Where to watch in Pakistan and the UAE

In Pakistan, fans will be able to watch it via PTV and Ten Sports, and digitally through the Myco and Tamasha apps. In the United Arab Emirates and the entire MENA region, all matches will be broadcast on CricLife MAX and CricLife MAX2, with streaming available on STARZPLAY.



Tennis: Jannik Sinner gets three-month ban after doping case settlement

Top-ranked tennis star Jannik Sinner has accepted a three-month ban in a settlement with the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) over his two positive doping tests.

WADA had challenged a decision last year by the International Tennis Integrity Agency not to suspend Sinner for what it judged was accidental contamination by a banned anabolic steroid last March.

Sinner's explanation that trace amounts of Clostebol in his doping sample was due to a massage from a trainer who used the substance after cutting his own finger had been accepted.

"Mr Sinner will serve his period of ineligibility from 9 February 2025 to 11:59 pm on 4 May 2025," WADA said in a statement. "Mr Sinner may return to official training activity from 13 April 2025," it added. WADA has formally withdrawn its appeal to CAS after they reached a settlement.

The 23-year-old Italian, who won the Australian Open in January, will be eligible to compete in the next Grand Slam. The French Open begins May 25.

WADA had originally appealed the ITIA's ruling to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland. It sought to ban him from the sport for at least one

year. The suspension is from February 9 to May 4.

Sinner could return at his home tournament, the Italian Open in Rome, which starts May 7.

Italian Tennis and Padel Federation president Angelo Binaghi noted that while the case was a shameful injustice, the ban will mark the end of a nightmare for Sinner.

Binaghi adds that the settlement demonstrates Jannik's innocence and that all of Italy will welcome him back at the Italian Open.

The ITIA said it acknowledged the settlement but in its statement Saturday reiterated that we were satisfied that the player had established the source of the prohibited substance and that the breach was unintentional. Today's outcome supports this finding.

Sinner's London-based lawyer, Jamie Singer commented: I am delighted that Jannik can finally put this harrowing experience behind him. WADA has confirmed the facts determined by the Independent Tribunal. It is clear that Jannik had no intent, no knowledge, and gained no competitive advantage. Regrettably, errors made by members of his team led to this situation.

NEW ZEALAND TRIUMPH OVER PAKISTAN IN TRI-NATION FINAL, CLIMB ICC ODI RANKINGS

KARACHI [PAKISTAN]: New Zealand secured a five-wicket victory over Pakistan in the tri-nation series final in Karachi, strengthening their position in the ICC Men's ODI team rankings, as per Wisden.

Chasing a target of 243, New Zealand comfortably reached the total in just 45.2 overs, with key contributions from Daryl Mitchell (57), captain Tom Latham (56), Devon Conway (48), Kane Williamson (34), and Glenn Phillips (20*). Despite a recent dip in form, Latham played a crucial role in guiding his team to victory.

However, it was the bowlers who set the stage for New Zealand's triumph. Pacer Will O'Rourke was the stand-out performer, claiming 4/43 in 9.3 overs to restrict Pakistan to a modest total. Skipper Mitchell Santner and Michael Bracewell chipped in with two wickets each, while Nathan Smith and Jacob Duffy took one apiece.

This match served as a prelude to the Champions Trophy 2025, which begins on February 19. The two teams will face off again in the tournament opener at the same venue.

New Zealand's unbeaten run in the series boosted their ICC ODI team rating from 100 to 105, securing them the fourth spot with 4,414 points from 42 matches. Pakistan, after losing the final, dropped to third place with a rating of 107.

Meanwhile, Australia, despite suffering a shocking 0-2 series defeat against Sri Lanka, climbed back to second with a team rating of 110. Table-toppers India, who recently dominated England with a 3-0 series win at home, lead the rankings with 119 points.



Meet Miraya Dadabhoy, India's equestrian prodigy who can't stop winning at 15!

From the tender age of four, Miraya Dadabhoy dreamed of being an equestrienne - a unique passion born out of her love for animals. She accomplished the dream faster than most would have thought, becoming the country's prodigy in the challenging sport at 15.

Chennai-based Miraya began competing actively in 2021. Within just three years, she has achieved what many riders aspire to do in a lifetime. Miraya excels in both dressage (rider and horse 'performing' pre-determined set of movements from memory) and show jumping (riders test their horses' ability to jump over a course of fences at a pre-determined pace). Her achievements in dressage include numerous team gold medals and a series of top placements at events like the Senior National Equestrian Championship and the Concurs Dressage Nationals.

While Miraya continues to train in show jumping, her primary focus in 2024 has been on excelling in dressage, where she has demonstrated exceptional skill and versatility.

Her trophy cabinet is decorated by a team gold at the Junior National Equestrian



Championship in December 2024 and the prestigious title of Best Asian Youth Rider at the FEI World Dressage Challenge, a highly competitive international event. Miraya ranked World No. 5 in youth at the FEI World Dressage Challenge, achieving an impressive score of 72.325%.

Four-year-old Miraya fell in love with horses not long after she sat on the elegant creature for the first time. Spending a lot of time around horses has helped her in further sharpening her skills, the teen sensation told the press recently.

While focus is pivotal for the sport, it is equally important to learn how to effectively communicate with the stallion, she said. The animal and rider need to

respect each other, which is integral to their bonding. There can be no mistakes when it comes to interpreting the beast's mood, energy level and feelings, she told The New Indian Express while adding that a horse should be treated like a partner or pal by the rider.

"You start to understand the body language [of the horse]. The partnership is built on trust and clear communication. So you have to just work on it, and it's a lot of spending time together," she told the daily.

Her short-term goal is to keep doing well in regional, national, and international competitions so that she can earn a world ranking before 2026 arrives. In the long run, she wants to practice under

top coaches and represent India at the highest level including Asian Games and Olympics.

"With the right support, I believe I can continue to achieve great things and represent my country at higher levels of international competition," she said.

And she is not standing idly by, waiting for the resources to arrive. Her routines may seem tough for a girl of 15 but Miraya is not a regular child. Her day begins at 5 in the morning when she leaves for the stable. She spends some time with the horse before preparing for her lessons at 6. The training, she says, is all about groundwork, pull work, and stretching.

Acknowledging the youngster's talent and determination, the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu included Miraya under the High Cash Incentive Scheme for emerging athletes. While she is well aware that there are miles to ride before she and her four-legged friend can afford to rest, Miraya Dadabhoy is happy with how things are at the moment. "My training is very focused, and it's a very professional training environment compared to someone who is riding for fun," she had said.

Aditi lies 20th at the Saudi Ladies golf



RIYADH [SAUDI ARABIA]: Aditi Ashok and Pranavi Urs, making their first appearance on the Ladies European Tour, got off to decent starts at PIF Saudi Ladies International. Aditi, who opened her season on the LPGA, shot 3-under 69 while Pranavi playing her first event of the new year, carded 2-under 70. Both had four birdies each but Aditi, placed T-20, dropped just one bogey, while Pranavi, placed T-32, had two, as per a release from Ladies European Tour.

It was a damp morning with rain falling at the start of the rounds at Riyadh Golf Club, but it dried up in the middle of the round before the rain started again towards the end of the day.

The other two Indians in the field were way behind as Tvesa Malik shot 73 and was T-75 and Diksha Dagar, one of the only two

Indians to have tasted victory on the LET, shot 75 and was T-95.

Aditi, teeing off from the tenth, had an early bogey on the 11th, but then birdied four times - on the 13th, 15th, first and second.

Pranavi opened with a birdie on the tenth but dropped shots on the 11th and 17th. She then picked birdies on second, fourth and the fifth.

It was not a great start for Tvesa, who had two birdies on the 17th and the ninth, after teeing off from the tenth. Diksha, two-time winner on the LET, had two birdies, one bogey and a quadruple bogey on the Par-3 eighth.

She leads the Individual after an opening round of 65 (-7).

In the Individual competition, Korea's Somi Lee fired an opening round of 65 to lead the Individual competition by one stroke on the first day.

Cricket legends Yuvraj Singh, Shikhar Dhawan, among others rally for WCL Season 2 campaign

NEW DELHI [INDIA]: The cricket world is set for an extraordinary convergence of talent as five of the sport's most iconic players - Yuvraj Singh, Shikhar Dhawan, Shahid Afridi, Chris Gayle, and AB de Villiers - confirm their participation in Season 2 of the World Championship of Legends (WCL).

In a groundbreaking initiative that goes beyond traditional cricket, these legends will also serve as mentors in an immersive fan experience program, as stated in a release from WCL. World Championship of Legends (WCL), the only ECB-approved league in its category, has announced the launch of registrations for its groundbreaking fan engagement program, Live With The Legends (LWL). The initiative offers cricket enthusiasts worldwide a chance to secure a spot in an exclusive 16-day, all-expenses-paid UK tour, where 12 selected fans will share living quarters and experiences with cricket's greatest stars.

The Live With The Legends program represents an unprecedented level of access to the sport's elite, featuring exclusive travel and accommodation arrangements alongside cricket legends, behind-the-scenes access to team preparations and match-day activities, VIP access to official WCL events and post-match celebrations, one-on-one interactions with players, professional photo sessions, and signed memorabilia from the teams.



The selection process will unfold across three carefully designed rounds. The first round, running from February 15 to March 15, will test participants through a 15-minute cricket knowledge assessment. Successful candidates will advance to the second round, held from March 16 to April 25, where they must submit a one-minute video showcasing their passion for cricket.

The CEO and Founder of WCL, Harshit Tomar, said that the tournament will increase fan engagement to an unprecedented level.

"Cricket has always been a game of passion and legacy. With Live With The Legends, we are taking fan engagement to an

unprecedented level by giving them the chance to live the experience of a professional cricketer. This initiative is a testament to WCL's commitment to celebrating the sport and its greatest ambassadors." Harshit was quoted in a release from WCL as saying.

Registrations are open from February 7 to March 15 on the official WCL website. Cricket enthusiasts globally can apply for this historic opportunity to share space with cricket legends including Yuvraj Singh, Shikhar Dhawan, Suresh Raina, Shahid Afridi, Brett Lee, Chris Gayle, Moeen Ali, AB de Villiers, and others who have defined the modern era of cricket.

SPORTS MINISTER MANDAVIYA, WELLNESS INFLUENCERS TO JOIN 'FIT INDIA SUNDAYS ON CYCLE' EVENTS

NEW DELHI [INDIA]: Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya will be joining a diverse group of riders in Mumbai at the Fit India Sundays on Cycle event on Sunday, February 16.

Taking forward the theme of 'Fight Obesity', the cycling drive in Mumbai will see the ride taking place from Gateway of India to Girgaon Chowpatty, 7 am onwards, as per a press release from the Sports Authority of India (SAI) Media. Featuring alongside the Sports Minister in the cycling event will be Dr Micky Mehta, Life Coach and Fit India Ambassador, Shaina Nana Chudasama, Indian Fashion Designer and Social Worker, Dr Bhairavi Naik Joshi, Director and CEO at BYCS India Foundation, Krishna Prakash, IPS Additional Director General of Police - Maharashtra and Sanjay Bhatia, IAS Upa-Lokayukta, Maharashtra State will also be joining in with lifestyle wellness coaches from Maharashtra Yoga Associations and Heartfulness Institute. The cycling drive will also be held across multiple locations across the country simultaneously. Shivani Pawar, Bronze medalist at the 2024 Senior Asian Wrestling Championship and 2025 National Games Gold medalist, will be joining the cycling event in New Delhi, 8 am onwards. Representatives from Decathlon, Cult.Fit, Sports Authority of India National Centre of Sports Sciences and Research (NCSSR) and wellness coaches from Yogasana Bharat will also be a part of the group of cyclists in the national capital. The start and end point of the cycling ride this Sunday at the national capital is the Major Dhyanchand Stadium.

The cycling drive is conducted pan-India on Sundays. Events are simultaneously held nationwide at SAI Regional Centres, National Centres of Excellence (NCOEs) and the Khelo India centres (KICs).

RCB rope in Sneha Rana as Shreyanka's replacement for WPL 2025

MUMBAI (MAHARASHTRA): Indian spin bowling all-rounder Sneha Rana has been roped in by Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) as an injury replacement for Shreyanka Patil, who has been ruled out of the ongoing third edition of the Women's Premier League (WPL) due to an injury.

WPL issued a statement announcing the same. Rana, who went unsold in the WPL auction last year, has joined defending champions RCB for Rs 30 lakh.

"Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) on Saturday picked Sneha Rana as a replacement for Shreyanka Patil for the remainder of the TATA Women's Premier League (WPL) 2025. Shreyanka, who has played 15 matches for RCB and has scalped 19 wickets, is ruled out of the third edition of the WPL due to an injury. Rana, who is an

all-rounder, has previously played for Gujarat Giants (GG) in the TATA WPL. She joins RCB for INR 30 Lakh," said a statement from WPL.

Patil, 22, was one of RCB's brightest young stars during their historic title-winning campaign last year, marking their first trophy across both men's and women's franchise cricket. She took 13 wickets in eight matches at an average of 12.07, with the best figure of 4/12, which came during the final against Delhi Capitals.

She has also played three ODIs and 16 T20Is for India, taking five wickets at an average of 27.00 and 20 wickets at an average of 19.20 respectively. She is also a useful lower-order batter.

Sneha has represented India in all formats since her debut in 2014, having played four Tests, 27 ODIs and 25 T20Is, in which she has taken 23 wickets at an average of 20.95, 29



wickets at an average of 34.44 and 24 scalps at an average of 21.75. With two international half-centuries, she is also a capable batter.

RCB started their WPL 2025 campaign with a thumping win against Gujarat Giants (GG) at Vadodara on Friday. After a fiery 79* in 37 balls (with three fours and eight sixes) from Ashleigh Gardner and half-century by Beth Mooney (56 in 42 balls, with eight fours) took GG to 201/5 in their 20 overs, RCB overcame two early wickets with a stabilising partnership between Raghvi Bisht (25 in 27 balls, with three fours) and Ellyse Perry (57 in 34 balls, with six fours and two sixes), before an explosive 93 run stand in 37 balls between Richa Ghosh (64* in 27 balls, with seven fours and four boundaries) and Kanika Ahuja (30* in 13 balls) helped them to a six-wicket win with nine balls left.